



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

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

**The 2009 Indoor Spot League** starts on January 13th and runs for 11 weeks. The league shoots on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:50 – 10:00 pm. On Saturdays the club house is open from 9 am until 1 pm. Teams will consist of 4 persons who must belong to the club. The cost for adults is \$40.00; age 12-17 is \$20.00 and 11 and under is \$10.00.

**The 2009 Indoor Animal League** starts on January 14th and 15th and runs for 11 weeks. The shoots will feature several 3D targets and other "fun" items. Ten targets are shot per week. The league shoots on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:50 – 10:00 pm. Teams will consist of 2 persons who must belong to the club. The cost for adults is \$60.00; age 12-17 is \$25.00 and 11 and under is \$15.00. There will be a \$20.00 discount for those who shoot both leagues. Kids will not receive a discount however. For additional information email Chris Polfus at [chrisp@polfus.com](mailto:chrisp@polfus.com) or Rich Vetterkind at [rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com](mailto:rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com)

Work nights will be held each Tuesday to get ready for league shoots.

The pistol and rifle ranges have been receiving heavy use. More backboards need to be constructed.

Construction of fencing around the ranges for safety consideration is planned this spring.

The New Richmond Spring Hunter Education Class is scheduled to begin on February 5th, 2009.

Signage at the front gate is in place thanks to the efforts of club member Dave Hegge.

The deer carcass dumpster will be removed the 1st week in January. This will be the last year the club will be providing this public service because of a variety of reasons.

Club membership currently stands at 351. Invoices for renewal have been sent. If you haven't received one as yet, please contact one of the board members.

Money was allotted for the NR Chamber, materials for range backboards, archery targets and the annual meeting.

A 3D archery shoot will be held in February. More information will be forthcoming.

### Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's November Meeting Minutes)

**Fisheries/Habitat:** 10 cords of oak have been ordered for fish crib construction with another 10 cords yet to be ordered. The USF&W has all the brush we will require already cut and stacked. Tentative date for the crib building is Saturday January 31st at the Cedar Lake's north landing. Fish Manager Marty Engel will locate the sites to sink the cribs. The wild rice planting on Cedar Lake did not take. There is a possibility of obtaining more Indian harvested seed as the lake is in the ceded Indian Territory.

**Park Party:** The numbers are still being tallied, but the event was held at a net loss to the club.

The club has 76 members in good standing.

The New Richmond Sports Association is planning an ice fishing contest on Cedar Lake this winter.

A monetary donation was received from Dan Donahue in memory of his father Jim with the funds designated for habitat. Another monetary donation from Warren Irle was also received in memory of his parents with the funds designated for projects in Stanton. Paul Mack made a donation also.

Member Shawn Schottler described the Conservation Easement donated to the SP Land Preservation Trust on the family Christmas tree farm NW of Somerset.

### Deer Hunting History in Wisconsin (Part 2)

1921 – Wardens are instructed that "all deer found in possession...with horns less than three inches in length, is a fawn and should be confiscated."

1924 – Estimated kill is 7000. 1925 – Legislature passes law closing deer season in alternate years.

1927 – No open season.

1928 – Deer hunters required to wear official conservation button while hunting; Game Division formed with

Conservation Department; estimated kill is 17,000 with 69,049 deer tags sold.

1929 – No open season.

1930 – Estimated kill is 23,000 with 70,284 deer tags sold.

1931 – No open season.

1932 – Deer tag price is raised to \$1; estimated kill is 36,009 with 70,245 deer tags sold. 1933 – No open season; Conservation Congress, an advisory group representing public opinion registered at annual county hearings, begins to assist the Conservation Commission in establishing a deer management policy.

1934 – First bow deer season; estimated gun kill is 21,251 with 83,939 deer tags sold. 1935 – No open season.

1937 – Shortest deer season on record, three days.

1938 – Use of .22 rifle and .410 shotgun prohibited.

1939 – Licensed children between ages 12 and 16 must be accompanied by parent or guardian; buckshot prohibited statewide.

1941 – Deer predators rare, timber wolves nearing extinction; estimated gun kill is 40,403 with 124,305 deer tags sold.

1942 – Back tags required while deer hunting.

1943 – First doe and fawn season in 24 years.

1945 – First year of 'shotgun only' counties; wearing red clothing required while hunting deer.

1950 – First 'any deer' season since 1919; estimated gun kill is 167,911 with 312,570 deer tags sold.

1951 – Deer hunting license and tag cost \$2.50; orange clothing now included under red clothing law; Wisconsin leads nation in whitetail deer kill for third consecutive year.

1953 – First season gun deer hunters required to register deer at checking station.

1954 – Two-thirds of bucks harvested are less than three years old; portions of Walworth and Waukesha Counties and all of Jefferson County open for the first time since 1906.

1956 – 100th established gun deer season; registered gun kill is 35,562 with 294,645 deer tags sold.

1957 – Legislature authorizes party permit.

1958 – Longest deer season since 1916, 16 days; Rock County open for the first time since 1906; first harvest by deer management unit (in northwest and northeast only); registered gun kill is 95,234, of which 44,987 taken by party permit; 335,866 deer tags and 58,348 party permits sold, respectively.

1959 – First statewide deer registration by unit; Game Management Division of Conservation Department assumes responsibility for coordinating the state's deer program; first open season in Kenosha County since 1906.

1960 – Hunter not permitted to buy a license after opening day of gun season; Green and Racine Counties open for the first time since 1906; all counties now open

except Milwaukee; registered gun kill is 61,005, of which 25,515 taken by party permit; 338,208 deer tags and 47,522 party permits sold, respectively.

1961 – Resident big game license increased from \$4 to \$5; first use of SAK--sex-age-kill population-reconstruction technique for estimating deer numbers; hunters required to transport deer openly while driving to registration station; legislation authorizing unit specific quotas for antlerless harvest established.

1962 – Deer population above 400,000; deer management unit specific population goals established.

1963 – First year of quota party permits in eight management units; assassination of President Kennedy lessens hunting pressure.

1964 – Party permit quota extended to 32 management units.

1967 – Hunter Safety Education Program begins.

1970 – Registered gun kill is 72,844 with 501,799 licenses sold; 13 hunters killed. 1973 – No deer season fatalities.

1978 – Record registered gun kill is 150,845 with 644,594 licenses sold.

1980 – Blaze orange clothing required; first season of Hunter's Choice permit; new law prohibits shining wild animals from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sept. 15-Dec. 31; coyote season closed in northern management units to protect nascent wolf population.

1981 – Record registered deer kill of 166,673 with 629,034 licenses sold.

1982 – Another record registered gun kill of 182,715 with 637,320 licenses sold; three deer season fatalities.

1983 – Harvest continues to rise with another record registered gun kill of 197,600 with 649,972 licenses sold; experimental antlerless deer hunt in six southern management units to relieve crop damage.

1984 – Big jump in registered kill, fourth record harvest in a row of 255,726 with license sales totaling 657,969; handgun deer hunting allowed in shotgun areas; group hunting legalized.

1985 – Fifth consecutive record kill of 274,302 with 670,329 licenses sold; deer season extended in 21 management units; legislature further strengthens road hunting restrictions.

1986 – Gun deer season now nine days statewide; landowner preference program begins for Hunter's Choice permits.

1987 – First year of bonus antlerless permits; seven fatalities and 46 hunting incidents. 1988 – Handguns permitted statewide.

*(To be continued...)*



*Club members enjoying a snowy muzzleloader hunt. From left Back Row: Jerry Van Houten, Steve Warren, Tory Johnson, Derek Hannula, Todd Larson Front Row: Brian Headlee, Pieces Polfus, Chris Polfus*

### **Warden Paul's Corner – Snowmobiles**

Before the snowmobile trail open, plan ahead by finding out when a snowmobile safety class is being held before it is too late. Wisconsin has an age and safety requirement for operators. Anyone who is at least 12 years old and who is born on or after January 1, 1985 must possess a valid Snowmobile Safety Certificate in order to operate a snowmobile on areas open to the public including frozen waters. Class information can be obtained at the DNR's website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) or by calling the DNR Service Center in Baldwin at 715-684-2914 to ask about upcoming classes. Also, a CD-ROM Snowmobile Safety Certification class is available to persons 16 or older. For additional information on the CD-ROM, call the DNR Service Center at the number already listed.

With the days getting shorter and colder, many outdoor enthusiasts are preparing their snowmobiles for the first trail ride. Wisconsin residents have two options for registering snowmobiles. They are either public or private registration. Public registration allows the operation of the snowmobile on any area open to public riding (including the frozen waters of lakes and rivers) and on private property with the appropriate permission. The registration is valid for two years beginning on July 1st and expires on June 30th two years later. The registration decals will be mailed from Madison so the operator must carry proof of registration (a validated receipt from a snowmobile dealer or DNR Service Center) prior to receiving the decals. In addition, registration decals can be purchased for \$5 when registering your snowmobile at a DNR Service Center. Private registration only allows immediate family members to operate on land owned by the immediate family. Private registration does not allow for operation on areas open to the public.

A snowmobile is exempt from registration if the snowmobile is used exclusively for racing on a racing facility



*Terry Miller with 2008 deer gun harvest taken near Star Prairie (8 point, 20" spread)*

or owned by the United States or a political subdivision of the state and used for enforcement or emergency purposes (the name and owner must be displayed in the cowling).

Owners can apply for registration by mailing in their application to Madison, but the owner cannot operate until they receive a validated application back in the mail. Therefore, apply for registration at the DNR Service Center in Baldwin (715-684-2914) where your application will be validated in person. If buying a snowmobile from a dealer, the dealer can register and validate your application in person. Renewing your registration can be completed through the DNR website, just print out your confirmation page and carry with you until your decals come in the mail.

With many lakes froze with ice, snowmobilers are venturing out onto the ice already. Remember that there is no such thing as safe ice. If you decide to ride on the ice there are speed restrictions all snowmobilers must follow. Anyone riding a snowmobile within 100 feet of a person who is not on a snowmobile, or in or on a vehicle, or when riding within 100 feet of an ice fishing shanty, you must slow your snowmobile to 10 mph or less and yield the right-of-way. These speed restrictions do not apply when operating a snowmobile on a privately owned raceway facility.

In addition, when you are riding a snowmobile between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and you are riding within 150 feet of a home or dwelling, you must slow your snowmobile to 10 mph or less. Wisconsin has a nighttime speed limit of 55 mph from ? hour after sunset to ? hour before sunrise.

For any questions or to report a violation contact Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120. Have a safe and enjoyable snowmobiling season.

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## Upcoming Events...

- December 18th (Thursday).....Close Exterior Southern Zone Goose Season
- December 20th (Saturday).....Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust's Hiking and Snowshoeing Event, Event, McMurtrie Preserve, 12-4 pm,  
Contact Aleisha Miller 715-426-1473
- December 31st (Wednesday).....Pheasant season closes, frog season closes
- January 4th (Sunday) .....Late archery deer season closes
- January 6th (Tuesday) .....St Croix County Sportsman Alliance January Meeting, Land & Water Conservation Building, Baldwin, 6:30 pm,  
Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- January 6th (Tuesday) .....Willow River Rod & Gun Club winter archery and Spot League open shooting, 5-10 pm.
- January 8th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Annual Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- January 13th (Wednesday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club Indoor Spot League start,  
Contact: Chris Polfus at [chrisp@polfus.com](mailto:chrisp@polfus.com) or Rich Vetterkind at [rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com](mailto:rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com)
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- January 19th (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 28th (Wednesday).....Upper Willow River Rehabilitation Meeting, 7 pm, New Richmond Civic Center,  
Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- January 31st (Saturday).....Squirrel and northern zone (A) ruffed grouse seasons close

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

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