



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

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

*(From Chris Polfus's December Meeting Minutes)*

**Archery** – The winter spot league will begin on January 15th. If interested contact Chris Polfus at [ChrisP@polfus.com](mailto:ChrisP@polfus.com) or 715-246-6565. If interested in shooting in an 11 week (Wednesday and Thursday evenings) 3D indoor animal league starting January 16th contact Rich Vetterkind at [brettv4@pressenter.com](mailto:brettv4@pressenter.com) or 715-246-2126.

**Trap** – A Turkey Shoot has been scheduled for Sunday, April 6th. There will be an open shoot in February so watch the website for more details.

**Rifle Range** – Remember to read the range rules before you enter the range. Please knock the snow off the canopy when you see it there. Too much snow will buckle the structure. Thanks to Gander Mountain for donating the gift certificate/10-22 rifle. The winner of the Gift Certificate was Brian Headlee.

**Pistol Range** – The USRA schedule is set. The club will be hosting 8 matches this year as well at the State Match on May 31st and June 1st. The backers have been replaced on the range.

**St. Croix Alliance** – The Alliance Habitat Banquet has been scheduled for March 18th at the Baldwin VFW Hall. Fish Cribs are to be built on the northwest side Cedar Lake. The date for crib building and placement is January 26th starting at 8 a.m.

**Membership** – Family membership costs will be \$75 for 2008 but if 10 hours of club service has been recorded, the cost for membership is \$45. No discounts will be given during the year. We currently have 350 members. Applications for 2008 will include a more thorough form with rules and regulations outlined. Be thorough in your responses, otherwise delays may be experienced in filing your application..

**Public Relations** – Please contact Mike Reiter if you have ideas, stories or pictures for the newsletter.

**Fishing Tournament** – The tournament this year will be at Mary Park in New Richmond scheduled on February 10th from 10 a.m. to 2 pm with the signup area at the boat landing. Hope to see you there!

### 2008 Board of Directors:

Chris Polfus and Jerry Van Houten were elected to the Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Board of Directors for 2008. The new officers and positions for 2008 are:  
 Brian Headlee - President - [tenspot17@hotmail.com](mailto:tenspot17@hotmail.com) - (715-246-5322)

Jon Nysse - Vice President – [jnysse@gmail.com](mailto:jnysse@gmail.com) - (715-246-7021)

Bob Peterson - Treasurer - [bobgp@frontiernet.net](mailto:bobgp@frontiernet.net) - (715-246-2816)

Chris Polfus - Secretary - [chrisp@polfus.com](mailto:chrisp@polfus.com) - (715-246-6849)

Jessa Nelson - Membership Director – [jessa.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:jessa.nelson@gmail.com) - (715-246-0266)

Bill O'Rourke - Non-Shooting Events – [annlizzie@frontiernet.net](mailto:annlizzie@frontiernet.net) - (715-246-2475)

Jerry Van Houten - Long Range Planning – [jjvanhouten@hotmail.com](mailto:jjvanhouten@hotmail.com) - 651-436-5204

George Gfall chose not to run this go time. We want to again thank George for all that he has done for the club over the many years on the board.

### Old Business/New Business:

The Law Enforcement Committee discussed recommendations for use of the club land. There is a good plan now in place and communication about usage will be forthcoming.

The 2007 Outstanding expenses were reallocated for 2008.

Rifle range expansion was discussed. The range will be widened and be constructed similar to the pistol range with 6 benches and room for a prone position. The 200 yard bunker will stay the same width while the 100 yard bunker will get the majority of the expansion. Thanks to all who helped with the design for this project. Money was allotted for this expansion in 2008.

Thanks to Ron Roettger and Westfield's Hospital for the donation of the white board in the clubhouse. The clubhouse construction is almost complete. A huge thank you to all who donated not only money

but time and effort towards the project. It was a big undertaking and it turned out great. If you haven't seen it and would like to, stop out this winter in the evenings while Winter Archery is going on.

Safety on the club land was discussed in length. With vehicle stickers and license plate numbers, we have the ability to track violations. If at any time you feel someone is in violation of our range or club rules get their sticker or license plate number and contact the number at the gate or anyone on the board. The Board will then contact the person and discuss the situation. There's no need for you to confront them. Abuse of any of the rules could result in the revocation of membership. The stickers you receive should be placed on the right side of your windshield.

Getting your hours in for the reduction of the membership fee has been sometimes difficult. We're trying to make that easier by appointing committee chairpersons. If you marked on your application that you could help in these committees the chairman will contact you.

**Committee Chairman:**

- Archery - Rich Vetterkind
- Rimfire - Brian Headlee
- Trap - Joel Dekoch
- Rifle - Jon Nysse
- Grounds Maintenance - Dave Hegge
- Clubhouse - Steve Warren
- Food Crew - Ray Langness
- Special Projects - Bill O'Rourke
- Capital Projects - Brian Headlee
- Education - Ron Roettger

Ron Roettger has volunteered to clean the clubhouse on a weekly basis. We all appreciate it.....Thank you.

Ernie Shores and his "Keeping Youth Involved" group were approved to use the club premises on January 20th for a trap shooting event.

**Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News**

*(From Mike Kelly's December Meeting Minutes)*

**Bucks Night:** The 2007 Buck's Night event was a success. There were 252 people in attendance, 166 were individually paid and 86 through paid through sponsorships. Club thank-you cards were mailed to major contributors: Gander Mountain, Sportsman's Warehouse, Gramma's Pheasant hunts, Orland Bygd, Big Lake Store, Russel's Sport & Bike, and Jay-See sports. A discussion was held on the need for a credit card machine at next year's event.

**Fisheries/Habitat:** The fish cribs will be placed on the rock pile area NW of Demullings Point. GPS locations have been taken for the crib placement. Forty or fifty cribs will be assembled at the north landing. Logs will be delivered by January 1st with the tentative date for

building and placement of the cribs set for Saturday January 26. Workers should meet at the north landing on Cedar Lake at 8 am. An alternate date for crib building and placement is set for February 2nd. Brush will be moved from the Beryl WPA. An inventory of cement blocks and re-bar will be taken.

**Park Party:** Ideas on changes for the 2008 event are being considered. Bands selection, alternative dates and novel exhibits are but a few up for review.

**McMurtrie Property:** The road upgrade and parking lot have been completed and the wildlife pond has been seeded. Aleisha Miller has purchased waders, and other equipment for environmental events at the site. A decision was made for the SPF&GA to assume responsibility for the maintenance at the Meinke property including the cabin and garage.

SPF&GA Board of Directors who are up for reelection are Stuart Nelson, Chuck Magoon and Dave Peterson.

Club shirts like the ones worn at Buck's night are available to club members for \$30.

Erv Erickson has received bids for the lumber to build 25 wood duck houses.

A special thanks to Dick Hoppe for donating the roast pork for the last meeting.

**Alliance News and Notes**

The stakeholder meeting to address Squaw Lake issues was held on December 3rd, at the Star Prairie Town Hall. Topics that were addressed were easements and agreements for the aeration system, boat landing ownership and maintenance and dredging opportunities. The Alliance feels its responsibility at this time will be to continue to maintain a back up aeration unit for emergency purposes. This unit will be used on county wide basis.

One of the aeration systems on Pine Lake had gone down and the Alliance's emergency aeration unit was used. The replacement unit has been repaired and is again ready for use. Phase 1 of the Pine Lake Project is complete. Blacktop, seeding and grading will be performed in 2008. The 2008 Conservation Aids moneys will be used to establish a prairie planting at Pine Lake Park. Negotiations continue with Excel Energy to sort out property issues at the park. Good progress is being made on that front. In late January or early February, 15 fish cribs are scheduled to be built and placed at Glen Lake in Glen Hills County Park. The Star Prairie Fish & Game's crib sled will again be used in this project.

Later this winter an informal meeting will be scheduled to address concerns of local residents about conservation practices and policies of the USF&WS and the DNR.



*Million dollar game farm deer?*

A review of the questions to be presented at the 2008 Spring Hearings was given. Two questions relating to catch and release musky and bass fishing were of concern. These issues were inserted into the Wisconsin Budget Bill and are now scheduled for hearings without going through a legitimate process. This is another case of a legislator bypassing the rule making process. Another question coming from the Big Game Committee concerns a ban on baiting and feeding of deer statewide. This time around there is more explanation on the subject which really highlights the need for these bans.

The Alliance is planning to resubmit a resolution to the County for a ban on feeding deer in the County. It was successfully submitted in 2007 but failed to advance at the Statewide County meeting because of some negative response from a few northern counties. A motion was made and approved that the Alliance support St Croix County's 2007 resolution on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Resources Compact. Information on the costs of water level monitors that could be installed at various locations in the County was provided. Trout Unlimited and the Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District are interested in having a monitor in place below the dam in New Richmond on the Willow River. The cost of the unit is around \$1500.00. Partnering the cost for the monitor is being considered. Monitoring programs are also being considered by the County for Perch, Bass and Squaw Lakes. The County would collect, analyze and store the data on these units when they are in place.

The Baldwin Shooting Range lawsuit situation was updated. Following unsuccessful arbitration, a judge's ruling formally closed the range. It could reopen however, if proper safety improvements are made.

Marty Engel reported on the plans for securing the

parking area on the north end of Cedar Lake. This includes the old Cedar Lake school house and a few acres of land. There appears to be several deed abnormalities that need to be rectified but things are coming together. Meetings are planned to sort out these issues. Because of low water conditions and cold weather the Hatfield aeration system froze up but has since been thawed and is now up and running.

Marty reported that Turtle Lake north of Somerset may be experiencing a freeze out this winter. Low water levels have put many shallow lakes at risk. A VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic septicemia) update was given with various bait restrictions discussed. Information about this disease will be provided by Marty and distributed via e-mails to the Alliance mailing list.

Marty also reminding the group of the panfish bag limit reduction in St Croix County becoming effective on April 1st, 2008 and the new Cedar Lake slot size rule being in place on May 3rd, 2008 which is the opening of the inland fishing season. The 40 acre parcel located in Cylon Wildlife Area and owned by the county was being considered to be purchased by the State.

### **Ice Fishing and ATV's**

*(Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman)*

During this time of year there are many ice fishing derbies occurring on St. Croix County Lakes. Anglers on the lakes many times use ATV's as transportation during the tournament or on a normal day of ice fishing. No matter what time of year or event, there is no exemption for ATV's to ride on any roadway or road right of way in St. Croix County. For example, if an individual lives in a subdivision near a lake and would like to use their ATV on the frozen waters, they must trailer the ATV to the lake. Even though it is more convenient to ride the ATV to the lake on the road, it is illegal to do so. In addition, all ATVs on the ice need to display current registration decals or carry proof of registration if you are waiting to receive your decals in the mail.

If you have any questions or concerns about ATV operation or any other regulation please contact Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 extension 120.

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## Upcoming Events...

- January 25th -27th (Friday-Sunday) ...Northern Wisconsin Deer Classic & Outdoor Expo, Eau Claire Sports Center
- January 26th (Saturday) .....St Croix Valley Chapter Whitetails Unlimited Banquet, Valley House, HWY 35, Hudson,  
Contact: Steve Lucksinger 715-386-7260
- January 30th (Wednesday) .....Conservation Lobby Day and Wild Game Feed, Inn on the Park, Madison, Wisconsin
- January 31st (Thursday) .....Close of squirrel, raccoon and northern ruffed grouse season
- February 4th (Monday) .....New Richmond Hunter's Ed registration, New Richmond Armory, Contact: Ron Roettger 248-3883
- February 12 – (Tuesday) .....Alliance February Meeting - 6:30 pm at the Land Conservation Building in Baldwin
- February 14th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's February Meeting, 7 pm, Club land,  
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- February 18th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association February Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,  
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- February 23rd (Saturday) .....Fourth Annual Bass Lake Fishing Contest
- March 1st (Saturday) .....Open of inland catch and release early trout season (See Regulations)
- April 1st (Tuesday).....Bag limit of panfish in St Croix County changes from 25 to 10 (See 2008 fishing regulations)
- April 20th (Sunday) .....St Croix County Earth Day Event, YMCA Camp, Hudson, 1-5 pm,  
Contact: Aleisha Miller 715-684-2874 Ex. 125
- May 3rd (Saturday).....Open of 2008 inland fishing season

Comments, criticisms or input, please contact Mike Reiter 246-6643 or Bob Peterson 246-2816

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