



Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club **NEWSLETTER**



AUGUST 2018

“Wisconsin’s Oldest and Finest Gun Club”

RIFLE/PISTOL RANGE

The Board of Directors would like to thank all of you who attended our board meeting in July to discuss the future of the Rifle/Pistol Range. We easily had 30+ members attend with several who spoke up and shared their thoughts and ideas as well as frustrations.

The range is still closed at this time. We had hoped to have the range open a lot sooner but it is taking longer than we had anticipated. Between coordinating training sessions, discussions/bids on range upgrades, and insurance discussions, we are still not open for shooting.

We do know the rifle/pistol range will no longer be an unsupervised range. Shooting will only occur when there is a Range Safety Officer (RSO) on site. Our current plan includes using volunteer RSOs who will open the range. A special thank you goes to Logan Pontius who has volunteered to coordinate RSO's.

We've been in contact with RSO trainers and will be holding a training class at the Club (date and costs TBD). We will provide an update on our Facebook page and website when we do have a class. If you are interested in volunteering to be an RSO at the Club, please send us an e-mail with your contact information. We will add you to our RSO contact list. We already have several people interested in becoming RSOs and we thank all of them for their help! The more volunteers we can get, the more the range will be open for shooting.

We have also looked into making physical upgrades to the range itself. The range was never designed for the additional use it has gotten the last past five-ten years (tied largely to the passage of CCW in WI). In early July we had two gentlemen sit down with our Board of Directors to discuss potential upgrades. These two have worked with the MN DNR for many years, specifically working with outdoor shooting ranges. They provided us with insight and ideas on what we can do to make our range better. These include: increasing the height of the berms, adding exterior berms, adding additional sound baffles, updating/adding additional signage, and making the parking lot bigger to name a few.

Right now job #1 is getting the range open with RSOs. Range upgrades will follow as we price them out and determine how to pay for them. We are looking into grants, affiliate funding, and considering charging a daily fee to range.

We apologize for the range still being closed and appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to get it re-opened.

WESTGATE GEEZERS

Are you 60 years old or older? Do you have free time Tuesday mornings? If so, you are welcome to come out to the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club for the Westgate Geezers Club.

Join your fellow Geezers every Tuesday morning all year long for coffee, a sweet roll, and a round of trap. Coffee and sweet rolls are free and trap shooting is regular prices.

FALL INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND DOUBLES LEAGUE

Signup sheets are now out for anyone who would like to participate in our Fall American International League and/or Doubles League. A 5-person team is needed to participate in the International League and a 3-person team is needed to shoot doubles. Tuesday and Wednesday night leagues are available with leagues beginning the last week in August and going through October 10th.

What is American International League?

A total 25-targets are thrown at far greater speeds, over much wider arcs and angles, to a much greater distance, and shooters are allowed **2 shots** per target. This is a great way to get your shooting tuned-up for fall hunting season.

CWD UPDATE

Earlier this year a 'wild' deer was found to have CWD in the Town of Brunswick. The location was within the 10-mile radius of 6 counties: Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo and Trempeleau. There is a ban on deer baiting for 3 years in Eau Claire County and a two-year ban in the other five (5) counties.

The six-county CDAC (Advisory Committee) has met twice and established a boundary for the observation area where samples will be collected. They established a larger observation area of about 500 square miles with a "hot" zone or target area of 27 square miles in the center of the larger zone. Maps will become available to show the border roads.

A sample size of 310 will be sought from the entire area with 70 of those 310 coming from the target zone area. The Advisory Committee has authorized land owner tags to be issued by the DNR within the target zone boundaries only. The tags available are 1 to 5 tags depending on the habitat and acreage that each land owner has.

A meeting has been set up for August 20th in Rock Falls to give land owners the opportunity for any questions on the land owner tags that will be issued. Start date for land owner tags is September 1st with an end date of March 1st.

PHEASANT REARING PROGRAM

For many years the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club has raised pheasants on our property. This is a cost share program with the Wisconsin DNR – we get the chicks at no cost and the Club pays all cost of raising the birds.

Each spring soon as the weather permits we start repairing our pens and getting the six houses ready for pheasant chicks. In mid-May we have 3,000 pheasant chicks arrive. The pheasants are cared for daily and then get released around the first week in October. The DNR takes a majority of the pheasants and releases them on public hunting grounds. The remainder of the birds are divided up between volunteers and board members to be released on lands of their choice.

This year has been more challenging than most. Last winter's heavy snows caused a lot of damage to the pens with over two-dozen broken posts and big holes in the netting. Earlier this year we tried using chopped straw for bedding in the brooder houses instead of pine chips. The chopped straw was a recommendation by a non-local game farm and was a disaster. The chicks were eating the chopped straw which caused them to get plugged up – this resulted in a 700 bird loss. We did get about 600 more chicks from the game farm who suggested we use the chopped straw (at no cost).

Then in the last week of June the birds came down with a case of gape worm which suffocates the birds if not treated. We did provide a treatment regimen for the birds and recently finished up this process.

Only a couple months left to go and hopefully our issues are behind us. Raising these pheasants is a lot of work and we have about 20 volunteers who make this possible. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who help in raising these birds annually. If you're interested in helping out with the Pheasant Rearing Program in the future, please send us an e-mail.

TRAP LEAGUES

Hard to believe but we are winding down the trap league season with only a couple more weeks to go. We still have some leagues going down to the wire to determine who earns a birth in the shoot-offs as the second half winner. Below are the first half winners who qualified for the shoot-offs. Reminder: **SHOOT-OFF DAY IS SATURDAY August 25th!!!**

EAU CLAIRE ROD & GUN CLUB TRAP LEAGUE 2018 FIRST HALF WINNERS

TUESDAY NIGHT

Arrowhead League

- AA- Chicken Chokers
- A- Schulenberg Construction

Classic League

- B- Sammy's Pizza
- C- WRR Environmental

Eastern League

- D- Resco
- E- Donovan's Vending

National League

- F- Mad Mallards
- G- Powder & Smoke

Northern League

- H- Young Guns
- I- Trouble Shooters

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Indianhead League

- AA- Earthblind
- A- Dirt Farmers

Central League

- B- Smith's Firewood
- C- Klevagaard Bookkeeping

Western League

- D- Snap-On Tools
- E- Nationwide Flooring

American League

- F- Phillips Plastics
- G- Milwaukee Burger Co.

Southern League

- H- T.J. Electric
- I- Swanson's Flooring

WE THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF WISCONSIN'S OLDEST AND FINESET GUN CLUB!!!



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2018 Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club Board of Directors

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THE BOARD MEETS THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 6:30 PM.

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.