

# THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



*"A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State,  
the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."*

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2020

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### CLUB MANAGER

Allen Gallistel

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Parker Heise  
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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings Members,

As I write this, it is a beautiful early autumn day, proof that we live in "God's Country." The sun is shining and the leaves are turning into that indescribable palette of the warmest colors that can only be seen this time of year. It makes me nostalgic for the days of my youth... the harvest parties, playing football, bonfires, and going back to school to catch up with classmates. These are familiar memories for many of us, no matter what your age. I think about what it would be like to be young during these strange days, and I hope that our youth can still make fond memories that they can one day look back and cherish, in spite of the chaos.

Thankfully, not much has changed at the club. In fact, our club has helped many to pass the time with healthy activities for young and old alike during the period of "lock-down". I have seen many families making memories together on our ranges. We have provided something normal despite the abnormal. Not many organizations can say this.

We have bounced back from the spring shut-down, enjoying summer trap league, Monday Night Rifle and our first Turkey Shoot in quite some time. We have completed many projects - our members have answered the call and their efforts can be seen all around. A sincere thank-you to everyone who made possible the long list of improvements and enhancements that are mentioned within this newsletter.

As we enter the homestretch of what will be the "Notorious 2020," I hope that we can continue to uphold the normal, choose to be rational over irrational, and turn "survive" into "thrive." One of my favorite quotes from Winston Churchill is "Fear is a reaction. Courage is a **decision**." There is nothing wrong with a healthy dose of fear, but there seems to be a dealer on every channel pushing it, and the result is too many overdoses. We must remain rational, help those in need, support those who protect and serve, and remember that here in God's Country, we are still the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave... at least until we **decide** we're not.

*Shoot straight - Belinda Hopp, Secretary/Editor*

### WHO WE ARE

The RFSC plays an important role within the community. Not only do we provide a safe place to come shoot and have fun for our members, but we also host a variety of beginning and youth shooting programs. In 2019, over 2200 hours were logged instructing youth 4-H shooters alone! This time was spent at our club teaching children about safety and shooting the disciplines of shotgun, small bore .22 pistol, muzzle-loader, .22 rifle, air rifle and archery (including Wildlife Ecology and Hunting Skills.) Additional hours were spent teaching Hunter Safety classes, River Falls and St Croix Central school trap programs, RWVA Project Appleseed rifle marksmanship and our Beginning Shooter courses. We will once again offer Public Sight-in Days leading up to the WI deer gun opener. It's important for us to realize the role we have in the education of today's adults and tomorrows leaders. *It's what we do, it's who we are.*

*"No free man shall  
ever be debarred the use  
of arms."*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

#### **Did You Know?**

Where African Americans were being terrorized by the Klu Klux Klan, and where the Klan were sometimes aided by local law enforcement, the NRA set up charters to help train local African American communities to be able to protect themselves. The most prominent case being in 1960 in Monroe, NC where the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) head Robert Williams chartered an NRA Rifle Club that successfully defended an assault by the KKK on one of their leader's homes without casualties. The NRA supports wildlife conservation efforts to open lands up to managed hunting. For example, under the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, proceeds obtained through a tax on hunting firearms and ammo were used specifically to research and rebuild a vast array of wildlife species and habitats. Today, the NRA continues to seek expansion on these measures. It's worth noting that the proceeds from taxes and licensing go to support the governmental agencies charged with environmental research and conservation management, as little funding for this comes from taxes paid by the general public.

The NRA offers training programs for civilians as well as law enforcement. The training programs offered are even recognized by law enforcement as acceptable to fulfill the training requirement for concealed carry licenses (CCW). Today, the NRA has trained over 10,000 police and security firearm instructors and 55,000 certified instructors who in turn train roughly 750,000 people per year.

According to Factcheck.org, nearly half of the funding for the NRA comes from membership dues alone. Voluntary donations still account for the majority of the remaining funding.

## 2020 Scholarship Winners

**Jed Larson** \$1000 RFSC Scholarship

**Ashley Larson** \$500 Brian Wilson Memorial Scholarship

**Elena Brummel** \$250 Brian Wilson Memorial Scholarship

***Congratulations for a job well done!*** The essays written by the winners are posted in the clubhouse, please take the time to read them next time you are there.

**Special thanks go to the family and friends of Brian Wilson for their generous gift supporting our 2020 Scholarship program!**

## Range Updates

You may have noticed a few updates around the club. To start, two of the ash trees near the clubhouse had dangerous splits and were removed this spring, and a healthy young maple planted with the professional help of member Mark Schartau. Another member, Colin Murphy, upgraded the electrical service to both trap houses and added new service to the 50 yard range.

The ancient beverage cooler in the clubhouse was replaced with the help of John Einum, which makes it conspicuously quiet inside the clubhouse now. During the August clean-up day, the clubhouse got a badly needed deep-cleaning by a couple of very brave and determined members... I've never seen the windows clean! Also, the area behind the clubhouse had the brush and old fencing removed in preparation for some grading and berm removal.

Many of you have probably noticed the exceptionally well-crafted gun racks on the trap range, with handsome plaques memorializing Brian Wilson. His family designed and constructed these substantial structures, which will serve our club for many, many years to come. We are grateful to Ron, Margaret, Tyler, and Geri for such a fitting memorial to Brian.

Bowhunters and archers will notice that all of our targets have been replaced and upgraded to cross-bow approved targets. Most recently, the parking lot has been seal-coated and striped. Finally, we are on FACEBOOK now! Go to the social-media site and request access to get updates.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these improvements possible. And thank you to all of you who do the little things that go unnoticed. It all adds up!

**IN MEMORIAM** We sadly report the passing of long-time and former board member Carl Heise on August 17 at the age of 72 after a 10 month battle with melanoma. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family which includes two of his children, members Hilde and Parker Heise. He will be missed by all who knew him. Carl will not soon be forgotten amongst the RFSC membership.

## FALL TRAP

Fall Trap will be held every Sunday from 11am-3pm and Tuesdays from 5pm-8pm from September 29<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is an individual league, no teams. The league will have yardage (handicap) on Trap-house #1 and doubles on Trap #2 for the 5 week season.

### PUBLIC SIGHT-IN DAYS

will be held on the following dates from 9am-1pm. 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/20.

Non-members will pay a \$5 per gun fee to use the range.

### LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

**Sen. Ron Johnson**  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)  
P.O. Box 1159  
Oshkosh, WI 54903-1159  
202.224.5323

**Sen. Tammy Baldwin**  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)  
709 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202.224.5653

**Rep. Ron Kind**  
[kind.house.gov](http://kind.house.gov)  
205 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Suite 400  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608.782.2558

Find your Wisconsin state legislators at  
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx>

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

**WHO SAID IT?**

(See Calendar for answer)

*“My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!”*

**Gun Safety Reminder**

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until it’s your turn to shoot. Clear chambers and open actions are REQUIRED when not on the firing line and whenever handing a gun to another person.
4. NEVER cross the firing line to walk down range until everyone on the range acknowledges the range has been made safe and is COLD!
5. Always make sure those around you are following these safety rules.

RFSC is an “aim only” range. Do not engage in “shooting from the hip,” un-aimed directional rapid fire or other destructive shots. This includes shooting at range structures instead of approved targets AND shooting short.

***Ignorance and carelessness are the primary causes of gun accidents. A very real concern, especially among those who are around guns frequently, is complacency.***

***Complacency leads to carelessness!***

**THE TRUTH MATTERS**

There are numerous examples where concealed carry permit holders stopped public shootings recently, but they go unreported. To read about this and learn about real research on guns and crime go to [crimeresearch.org](http://crimeresearch.org)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1,2,6 Summer Trap (week 17)
- 8,9,13 Summer Trap (week 18)
- 14 Board Meeting 7pm
- 15,16,20 Summer Trap (week 19)
- 22,23,27 Summer Trap (week 20)
- 26 Club Banquet at West Wind
- 29 Fall Trap (yardage and doubles)

**OCTOBER**

- 3 RF Shooting Sports 10am-2pm
- 4,6 Fall Trap
- 10,11 Appleseed Rifle Program (15-25-50 yard range closed)
- 11,13 Fall Trap
- 12 Board Meeting 7pm
- 18,20 Fall Trap
- 25,27 Fall Trap
- 31 Public Sight-in 9am-1pm

**NOVEMBER**

- 1 Fall Trap FINAL
- 3 Election Day
- 7,14,20 Public Sight-in 9am-1pm
- 9 Board Meeting 7pm

**VETERAN’S DAY  
NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**



*For all who served,  
Thank You*

**WHO SAID IT?**  
Thomas Jefferson

**DECEMBER**

- 14 Board Meeting 7pm

**1/9/2021  
ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**AT THE  
RIVER FALLS  
MOOSE LODGE**

*\*Go to [RiverFallsSportsmensClub.com](http://RiverFallsSportsmensClub.com)  
for updated calendar and  
event/league info  
AND now you can*



RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB  
PO Box 336  
RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

**RIVER FALLS  
SPORTSMEN'S CLUB**

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E-MAIL:  
rfsc@sbcglobal.net

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*We're on the Web!*

**[riverfallssportsmensclub.com](http://riverfallssportsmensclub.com)**

**SHOOTING HOURS**  
Sunday – Saturday  
9:00 am – 8:00 pm



**RFSC**  
**BANQUET**  
**9/26/20**  
**AT THE**  
**WEST WIND**