



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

JUNE 2022

THIS ISSUE:

2022 Scholarship winner
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Info & Hours

2022

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715-426-4895

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Austin Belisle awarded 2022 scholarship

Austin Belisle, a familiar face on the shooting line and sometimes out of sight reloading birds in the trap houses, was the recipient of the River Falls Sportsmen's Club \$1000 academic scholarship this year.

Club secretary Belinda Hopp made the presentation during an awards ceremony held May 12 at River Falls High School.

Austin is the son of Jason and Pam Belisle.

He has been involved with the club for seven years -- both for recreation and part-time employment keeping throwers loaded and scoring rounds of trap.

In his application, Austin noted that he has been active in shooting sports, is a lifetime member of Whitetails Unlimited, and is a member of both Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

At school, Austin has been a four-year member of Future Farmers of America, and well as football and powerlifting.

Austin, six-foot, 215 pounds, was an offensive/defensive lineman on the 2021 River Falls Wildcat football team -- Mississippi Valley Conference champions. The 'Cats lost in second round of playoffs to Waunakee, which went on to win the WIAA Division 2 state championship.

This fall, Austin plans to attend the Advanced Welding Institute at Eagle River, Wis. Upon completion of the six-month program, he will pursue his goal of becoming a pipe welder.

"Involvement with the gun club has provided me a work opportunity as a trapper and has provided me a place to do what I love to do in my spare



Austin Belisle graduates from RFHS on June 5 and will begin classes this fall.

time -- trap shooting.

I have made lots of friends my age and older by going to the gun club."

On his LinkedIn profile, Austin says he likes "being outdoors, working with my hands, having fun while still getting the job done."

Austin's essay

Applicants were asked to explain the importance of the rights granted by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Second Amendment grants the right to keep and bear arms.

It allows everyday citizens to protect them-

Continued on Page 3

*Please welcome
the newest RFSC
members!*

Nick Geister, Chris Geister,
Darwin Wolfe **(January)**

Dane Freeborn **(February)**

Richard & Cyndi Peterson,
Seton Adams, Jeff Dahl,
Tammy Schmitz, Bryce Fouks
(March)

Michael Goering, Josh Hoff-
man, Alec Messer, Nate and
Luken Manor, Sean Heide,
Joseph Mazzitello, Robbie
Rowe, Robert Ferguson, Mi-
chael Simon, James Schnei-
der, Nick Larson, Kyle Som-
mer, Bjorn Anderson, Ryan
Wheeler, Ben Sanford, Jake
Pierson, Mark Klecker, John-
Eric Klecker, Sylvia Klecker,
Ray Nelson, Tom Sawyer,
Jordan Fischer, and Tim
Fischer **(April)**

Crystal Huffstutlar, John
Tressley, Julia Rodriguez,
Bret Greschner, Nathan Her-
um, Bruce Plein, Ben and
Shannon Winkelman, Adel
Ragheb, Corey Huppert,
Mickey Kindley, Dennis Hoff,
Robert Mussell, Jacob Bet-
thausen, Gavin Johnson, Ad-
am Sanford, Frank Flores,
Matt Passofaro, John Eaton,
and Alex Larson **(May)**

Schedule tight? Club leadership invite you to achieve volunteer hours via 'honor system'

Finding available range time to stay sharp with firearms can be challenging, but once you're at the club, there are ample opportunities to fulfill your annual obligation of four volunteer hours.

"This is your club. We don't have any employees," club secretary Belinda Hopp said during welcoming comments to the 20-plus new members approved by the board on April 11. "There's a mailbox outside containing paper and pens. It's everyone's responsibility" to help maintain the clubhouse, ranges and grounds.

If there's something you see needs doing -- trash pickup, minor repairs or the like -- step-up and complete it. Members who complete volunteer tasks independently should record their name, time spent, and tasks completed on a slip and leave it in the box to receive credit.

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to consider:

-- Assist in the clubhouse during Trap League. Volunteers are needed to cook, and help serve food and refreshments. Contact Sam Olsen during normal league hours.

-- A decision is still pending whether the club will host its River Falls Days food stand, **Thursday, July 7 through Sunday, Jul 10**. If we participate, help will be needed for Thursday set-up and Sunday morning break-down and clean-up; and staffing for numerous three-hour shifts of food prep and customer service, Friday afternoon through Saturday night. Watch the website or contact club manager Allen Gallistel at 715-426-4895 for more information.

-- Fall Banquet committee. The event is tentatively set for **Thursday, Sept. 22** at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club. The organizing committee is meeting regularly. Contact Mike Robey at 715-338-5576 to become involved with planning to to assist at the event.

Gun Safety reminders

Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot

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.

NEVER cross the firing line to walk down range until everyone on the range acknowledges the range has been made safe and is COLD!

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.

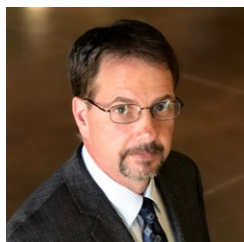
Ignorance and carelessness are the primary causes of gun accidents. A very real concern, especially among those who are around guns frequently, is complacency. Complacency leads to carelessness!

Club member offering concealed-carry classes

Dave Skinner, a seven-year RFSC member, attended the May board meeting to request permission to use the pistol range for occasional concealed-carry instruction during the summer months.

After brief discussion, approval was given. Skinner wouldn't occupy more than one or two shooting lanes at any given time and would likely use the range during low-demand weekday hours.

Skinner is qualified to provide certified instruction for Wisconsin, Minnesota and Florida. He will be providing classes throughout the



Dave Skinner

summer. Classroom instruction is limited to 30 people per class (in River Falls) and all range instruction is one on one.

Skinner and a partner operate two businesses -- ACG Security Consultants and National Tactical Security -- which provide risk assessment, security training to places of worship, and private security services. Skinner's career history includes service as a USAF security police officer, city police officer, state criminal investigator, US federal air marshal, and protective agent. Skinner has been a firearms instructor since 1994.

His course consists of three hours of classroom and a couple of hours at our range for further instruction and qualification. Cost is for the class is \$70 for club members and \$85 for non-members.

For more information, contact him at 612-442-1355.

SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Annual Mel Warren Turkey Shoot

10 am- 5 pm, Saturday Aug. 13

Come and have fun, shooting for great prizes!

Contact Ed Gibb at #715-781-7046 to learn more



Second Amendment essay *(continued from Page 1)*

the government taking those rights away. The Second Amendment also allows us to stand up for all the other rights we have. The Second Amendment has been challenged by those against guns, but this amendment gives us so much more than just the right to carry a gun.

The Second Amendment was created during a time in history where there was concern about too much central control of the government and citizens were looking for a way to protect themselves. The Second Amendment is important because it not only gives us the right to carry a gun but more importantly the right to protect and have security for ourselves and those around us that we care about.

It is reassuring to know that the government cannot take this right away from us. In a situation where there is a real threat to safety, there may not be time to wait for law enforcement to arrive. However, it is important to think about if there is truly danger where a firearm needs to be used for self-defense.

The Second Amendment is not intended to give someone the right to use a gun to cause harm that is not justified. This is what gives the Second Amendment a bad rap. There are some people that take advantage of this right and use it to create harm in other people's lives. That is not the intent. It is not about using arms to do harm and create danger for others. In these cases, individuals should pay the price and serve the time they need to and learn the real reason and importance of the Second Amendment.

There still needs to be regulations related to firearms, but the government cannot take away the right to protect ourselves.

In conclusion, the Second Amendment is an important part of our everyday lives. In the end, this protects us from those who want or feel the need to create harm and protects us from a government having too much control over its citizens.

We have the right for protection and security that cannot be taken away per the second amendment of the Bill of Rights.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
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 RIVER FALLS, WI 54022-0336

RFSC HOURS

RANGE FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO MEMBER'S 365 DAYS PER YEAR. WE ONLY REQUIRE THAT YOU OBSERVE POSTED SHOOTING HOURS AS FOLLOWS:

WEEKDAYS FROM: 9 AM TO 8 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM: 9 AM TO 8 PM

THE CLUBHOUSE IS ONLY OPEN DURING TRAP LEAGUE HOURS (JANUARY TO OCTOBER), WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TUESDAY 5 PM – 9 PM SUMMER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 5 PM – 9 PM SUMMER TRAP LEAGUE

SUNDAY 11 AM – 3 PM WINTER, SUMMER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE



The RFSC provides a safe place for members to shoot and have fun and also hosts a variety of beginning and youth shooting programs. In 2019, over 2200 hours were logged instructing youth 4-H shooters. Kids learned about safety and practiced disciplines of using a shotgun, small bore .22 pistol, muzzle-loader, .22 rifle, air rifle and archery (including wildlife ecology and hunting skills.)

Volunteers also taught Hunter Safety classes, supervised trap programs for River Falls and St. Croix Central students, and oversaw RWVA Project Appleseed rifle marksmanship and Beginning Shooter courses. It's important to realize the role the RFSC plays the education of today's adults and tomorrow's leaders.

It's what we do, it's who we are.