



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

MARCH, 2023

THIS ISSUE:

New members listed

Can you help smoke out FB page administrators?

Highlights from annual meeting; raffle winners listed inside

Scholarship deadline nears

2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

John Pietenpol
715-781-0799

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Parker Heise
715-781-7708

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Belinda Hopp

TREASURER

Ben Gaus

RANGE MASTER

Ed Gibb

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Kevin Larson
715-495-5114

CLUB MANAGER

Allen Gallistel
715-426-4895

DIRECTORS

Mike Robey,
Brad Cran
Rachel Vogt



New Leadership

Members elected a new president and director during the Jan. 7th annual meeting at the River Falls Moose Lodge. Past director John Pietenpol, was elected president, replacing Travis Schnick, and Rachel Vogt was elected to fill a third director's seat. The new group posed for a photo at the February meeting. From left are Brad Cran, John Pietenpol, Belinda Hopp (secretary), Parker Heise (vice-president), Kevin Larson (chief instructor), Rachel Vogt, Ed Gibb (range master), Allen Gallistel (club manager), and Ben Gaus (treasurer). Missing was director Mike Robey.

Fund-raising ideas for the club? Volunteers invited to step-up

About 10 years ago, River Falls Chamber- and city officials agreed to shift the concession and music hub for River Falls Days from Locust Street and the First National Bank parking lot to Heritage Park. Organizers hoped to highlight the Kinni corridor and bring more foot traffic downtown.

For a few years community groups like Rotary, River Falls Lions, churches and our Sportsmen's Club rallied member volunteers to opportunities to sell brats, burgers, fresh-cut french fries and our club's popular fried cheese curds, kabobs and hamburgers.

We're not privy to all the reasons or rationale, but privately-operated food trucks soon filtered into the mix. Today, organizations wishing to participate pay a fee for space and a portion of proceeds to the

Chamber, club manager Alan Gallistel said during the February board meeting.

Festival attendees may notice that other civic groups like the Lions and Rotary have also pulled out of food concessions, although Rotary still sells its kettle corn along the parade route on Friday evening.

A February board discussion was prompted by member inquiries during the Jan. 6 annual meeting as to why RFSC had discontinued the food stand and RF Days participation two years ago.

Contacted later, Chamber Executive Russ Korpela clarified that while the Chamber once levied a revenue-share for the Bacon Bash, they have never done so for River Falls Days.

"We loved having the Sportsmen's Club be part of RF

Days," Korpela noted in an e-mail exchange. "Our booth fees have gone up but only modestly. Last year, we needed to make a \$4,000 improvement to our electrical infrastructure, cost of tents – portajohns – bands – have all gone up so a food booth increase was in order."

"My recollection is that Sportsmen's Club backed out due to lack of volunteers," said Korpela. "It was a primary cause for Rotary backing out too. We are now a 4-day event and some vendors are having trouble finding enough people.

"In short, we held the spot open for Sportsmen's until they backed out, but if the group like to come back we would try hard to include them in 2023 and beyond.

Spring Clean-Up Day

Spring Clean-Up Day is a great way to help your club and achieve volunteer time to reduce membership dues.

Clean Up Day is planned for Saturday, April 29th from 8am to Noon.

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Please welcome these new RFSC members!

James Stewart (**December**)

Andrew Roland, Patrick Wiedenfeller (**January**)

Mark Kanam, Dan Lanoux, Quincy Mason, Steven Reed, Thomas Kolodjienski, Gretchen Rozeboom, Ella Janski, and Jamie Turner (**February**)

Annual meeting raffle winners

Radical 12-ga: *Ryan Beierman*
Mossberg 12-ga: *Cliff Jennings*

Rough-Rider22: *Craig Rogaczewski*

AR-15 5.56: *Neal Borchardt*
\$500 GC Shoot'em Up: *Belinda Hopp*

Ruger.22: *Craig Rogaczewski*
Browning 6.5CM: *Sue Phillips*

Fund-raising ideas invited...

Continued from Page 1

"If interested, let me know and I will make sure they get on the list for a food booth application which will be going out shortly," said Korpela.

Gallistel said there might be new opportunities for "pop-up" fundraising at an event like Art on the Kinni or one of the off-road biking events on the Whitetail Ridge Trails. He'd welcome any club members to float a plan and initiate such a project.

The club owns a large grill, two deep fryers and other equipment that might be used for a remote fundraiser.

Meanwhile, directors approved a suggestion by vice-president Parker Heise to use the club's raffle license to hold two raffle boards at the clubhouse through the shooting season. The game would offer 100 spots at \$20 each. Once sold out or at the declared contest end date, a drawing would decide the winner of a gun valued at about \$1,000.

Planning also continues for the club's annual fundraising banquet, to be held next September at a venue still to be determined. Members are invited to volunteer in any capacity.

Board briefs

— Directors voted unanimously in December to hire Croix Area Fence, River Falls, to install four-foot chain link fencing from the existing fence west to driveway of the new acreage. Cost of \$8,500 includes a five-year warranty on workmanship and materials. Work was expected to be completed before Christmas. A second estimate was "between \$8,700 and \$9,300" with no firm timeframe for installation, vice-president Parker Heise said. "It's a good step toward securing the property better than it is," Allen Gallistel commented.

— Volunteer mentors helped the club earn \$470 during four sight-in sessions ahead of the 2022 gun-deer season, treasurer Ben Gaus reported. Attendance varied with most of the 44 shooters visiting the range on the Saturday and Friday ahead of the Nov. 19 opener. Cost was \$10 per gun. Club members Jim & Sue Phillips, who one of the sessions, suggested the service be promoted more widely this coming fall and more people would likely attend. Jim Phillips also asked directors to consider replacement of the wobbly three-legged stool on the 100-yd range with a more secure four-legged model as soon as it's practical.

— The Club's Polar Ranger utility vehicle will be getting a new roof. Volunteer Jeff Crook who maintains the machine, requested the purchase in February. Crook said the \$450 investment will preserve the UTV, help keep it clean and provide users with some weather protection. Directors voted unanimously to approve Ben Gaus' motion to authorize up to \$500 for the roof.

Pietenpol elected President, Larson earns 'President's Award' at annual meeting

Club members elected a new president and director, heard outgoing President Travis Schnick offer highlights from the past year, and discussed ideas on elevating the club's visibility and fundraising.

Reflecting on 2022, Schnick said the club hosted the 2022 Indianhead Shoot and two Project Appleseed marksmanship shoots, extensive clean-up and new seeding around the new shed, clean-up of the grounds and west side of the clubhouse, the installation of new chainlink fence installed along adjoining parcel, and thanks to other member volunteer efforts that go unrecognized.

Schnick presented his "President's Award to Chief Instructor Kevin Larson of Spring Valley, for his unending work with youth, beginners, park & recreation, 4-H Shooting Sports, community outreach leadership. Larson thanked the club for its support and "the patience of members when youth are using our facilities."

Larson said later that he was "honored and humbled" by the recognition -- especially coming from Schnick, whom he described as "a very admirable leader, helluva problem-solver and peacekeeper", who "thinks quickly" on his feet. If his name is to be added to the clubhouse plaque, he'll insist that it be shared with wife Peggy. "We definitely tag-team to get that Chief Instructor job done. I know I couldn't get it done myself without Peggy and the entire RFSC Board of Directors. It is definitely about the TEAM."

During open discussion, one member suggested the club look at erecting a new clubhouse at the range so we could host outside events and hold meetings without renting space in town.

Others asked what could be done to attract better attendance for the annual fundraising banquet. Suggestions included shifting the event to a Saturday and requiring each member purchase a ticket.

Member Mike Rodewald offered a public "thank you" to mem-

bers Allen Gallistel and Greg Leier for spearheading the annual food booth at River Falls Days for several years. He's hopeful it could be done again in coming years. Gallistel said it was discontinued because the time commitment swelled from two days to five, per Chamber of Commerce rules.

Jerry Rodewald added that the food booth provided good community outreach. Youth

trap-shooting is a wonderful part of that, but more needs to be done to raise the club's visibility. Other suggestions included a food booth at other local festivals or a booth at the Pierce County Fair.

Other discussion included suggestions as to how to pursue rezoning to better utilize the new property.

During elections, members Schnick and Greg Leier declined nominations for president. Director John Pietenpol was elected by unanimous ballot. For treasurer, vice-president Parker Heise declined a nomination for treasurer. Current treasurer Ben Gaus was re-elected by a unanimous ballot, as was chief instructor Kevin Larson. Neal Borchardt declined a nomination for club manager. Allen Gallistel was elected by unanimous ballot. For Director 1, Rachel Vogt won a majority over nominees Lynn Schneider and Travis Schnick.

(A 'thank you' to Belinda Hopp for providing such thorough meeting minutes.)



Kevin & Peggy Larson



Improvements on the way

A new staircase to ease the climb to the 100-yard range, and new four-legged stools to provide a more secure shooting platform are among improvements planned for 2023.

In December, member Jim Phillips suggested to directors about the instability of a three-legged stool on that range for older members like him. Also, bids are being sought for a contractor or volunteers to reconstruct the existing 18-step staircase -- possibly including a mid-flight landing for comfort and safety.



New fence installed

Several hundred feet of new cyclone fence was completed in December, securing the southside and gate to the new RFSC acreage.

Upcoming Club events

Trap league captains to meet March 28

The launch of 2023 trap league will begin at 7 pm, Tuesday, March 28 when captains are asked to gather and familiarize with guidelines and rules.

Team shooting begins with two practice weeks — April 11, 13, 16, 18, 19 & 23, then weekly league shoots begin on Tuesday, May 2nd continuing through Sunday, July 1st. Club shoot is set for Wednesday, July 5th and Sunday, July 9th. Second half of leagues begin Tuesday, July 11th and conclude on Sunday, Sept. 17th.

Beginner Rifle training has the range reserved for June 6, 13, 20th, and July 11, 18, and 25th. For more information, contact Kevin Larson.

RF, Clear Lake youth will face-off April 1st

More than 100 trap enthusiasts from River Falls and Clear Lake schools will compete in an all-day event at the Club, Saturday, April 1. RF coach Jeff Meyer sought board permission for the U.S. Clay Target League event in February.

Meyer said the contest will fuel a new rivalry between the two schools and give Clear Lake students a chance to travel. Meyers expects at least 65 competitors from RF, and 50 from Clear Lake. Each participant will shoot 50 birds.

Attn. seniors: Scholarship deadline nears

High school seniors who plan to pursue higher education are encouraged to apply for the chance to receive a portion or all of the RFSC's \$1,000 scholarship. Deadline is March 31, 2023.

The total sum may be split between applicants, based on the selection committee's decision.

Applicants must be related to a current member, have completed Hunter Safety, demonstrate community involvement and write a short essay explaining the importance of Second Amendment rights.

Pickup up an application from the clubhouse bulletin board or download from this [link](#).



River Falls Sportsman's Club; est. Aug. 22, 2012; 61 followers

Club hopes to clarify, boost FB presence *Can you help solve mystery of 3 pages?*

Newly-elected board member Rachel Vogt recently asked fellow directors if anyone could offer insight on the presence of three different sites claiming to represent the Club on Facebook.

The oldest has the most "followers", but spells the club's official name with an "a" versus an "e".

Vogt said she'd like to help boost the club's visibility and make it easier for the public to find up-to-date information.

"I do plan on a larger Facebook presence so the Club members and community can see what's going on at

the Club, what we are doing with the community and what is planned at the club," she said later.

To achieve that goal, Vogt needs to find out who controls the other pages. She asks anyone who might know to send her a message at shotgunmana71@gmail.com.

Although Facebook's rules for account creation have grown to require more public accountability recently, it's still possible to operate a page in anonymity. Page creators are required to be at least 13 years old, and provide FB with a name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender.



River Falls Sportsmen's Club; est. Aug. 27, 2020; Private group with three members (Sam Olsen, Rachel Vogt, and Teri Raiche ... administrators); Membership approval by an admin. required.



River Falls Sportsmen's Club; est. Oct. 8, 2018 (no admin listed); 25 followers;

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

PO Box 336

RIVER FALLS, WI 54022-0336

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 Ed. 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.