



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

SEPTEMBER, 2023

THIS ISSUE:

New members listed

'Bugle 100' planned to honor the late Chris Gervais

Tasks outlined for Sept. 23rd Clean-Up Day

2023

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Banquet reminder: Sept. 8th

Steak and chicken headline the buffet, while a gun raffle, silent auction, popular games and fellowship will surround diners.

The Sportsmen's Club sixth annual fundraiser banquet opens at 5 pm, Friday, Sept. 8 at the River Falls Golf Club, with dinner to be served at 7 pm.

The \$50 per seat ticket includes dinner and a bidding number for the evening. Additional dinners are \$35 each.

Dinner is limited to the first 150 guests.

SCC wins title '1A Varsity State Championships'; RF Wildcat team wins conference title

The St. Croix Central FFA Trap team concluded a highly successful spring season, winning another conference title and state level Varsity Class 1A championship.

The team won by a 17-target advantage, while individual shooters earned top honors. Oliver Cran won overall top athlete and top male, while Isaac Bauer and Maddy Dull tied for second. Dull also earned top female at state. Others in the top 100 included Garrett Bussiere, Nate Hein, and Justin Kamm -- tying for 13th; James Vogt and Riley Becker tying for 36th; and Brock Thorson tying for 63rd, according to a story in the July 19th Baldwin Bulletin.

In early July, the team took two squads to the National Championship in Mason, Mich., and scored 19th and

68th team squads overall, the Bulletin reported.

Two competitors -- Riley Becker and Oliver Cran -- both shot a perfect 100 and participated in the final round against 17 others. Cran finished fifth, and Becker, 19th.

Other team members participating at Nationals included Garrett Bussiere, Maddy Dull, Steven Goossens, Justin Kamm, Nate Hein, and Riley Cran.

St. Croix Central finished first in Conference 10 (11 total) racking up 13,978 points, ahead of second place finisher Barneveld School District's 10,397, and seventh place finisher Clayton High School, which accumulated 6,589 points.

These St. Croix Central shooters were among 103 top overall averages for the 2023 Spring League:

3rd - Oliver Cran, 24.5 (seasonal average); 35th - Isaac Bauer, 23.8; 61st - Riley

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Oliver Cran reacts as he learns he'd shot a perfect 100 at the state tourney.

Fast response, club AED, enables veteran member to shoot on

Quick reactions by nearby Good Samaritans and the use of an automated external defibrillator likely saved the life of club member Lynn Johnson, who experienced a cardiac arrest while shooting trap about 1:15 pm, Sunday, Aug. 13.

Johnson was conscious and talking by the time paramedics arrived at the club around 1:30 pm. He was transported by Allina River Falls to United Hospital in St. Paul for care, returning home four days later.

Johnson, 76, said his last recollection is that he'd just broken 10 for 10 birds on his first round with



Lynn Johnson

four other league shooters. He recalls feeling hot and sweaty, but attributed it to the day's 80-degree sunshine.

When Johnson came to, he remembers people surrounding him and talking, but didn't know what had happened until a medic in the ambulance explained he'd experienced a cardiac event and needed specialty care. Rangemaster Ed Gibb was behind the bar when he learned Faith Bonse had called 9-1-1 because someone had collapsed on the shooting line.

Gibb grabbed the AED from the clubhouse wall and ran up the steps, where members

Jim Boget and Rob Richison were already

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Please welcome these new RFSC members!

Gordon & Zachary Knutson, Charles Clement, Kenneth Mazac **(June)**

John Spadley and Richard Andazola **(July)**

Bryan Fanton, Brandt Berghuis, Daniel Ritt, and Ben Rustand **(August)**

Upcoming

Friday, Sept. 8 - Fundraising banquet, RFGC

Sunday, Sept. 17— Sunday 'Fun Day'. Bring a dish to pass. Check the web site for details.

Saturday, Sept. 23— Fall clean-up at the Club. 8 am to noon.

Tuesday, Sept. 26—Fall trap league begins, 5-9 pm, thru Oct. 25.

Chris Gervais 'Memorial Shoot & Benefit' set for Sept. 24th at Game Unlimited

A day-long event Sept. 24th to honor late club member Chris Gervais includes a sporting clays tournament, lunch and memorial-reception.

Named the "Bugle 100" to commemorate Chris' passion for elk and elk hunting, begins at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 24 at Game Unlimited, 871 CTH E, Hudson.

The tournament will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch, consisting of Chris' favorite foods, will be served from 11 am until food is



Chris Gervais

gone.

A memorial remembrance and reception will be held at 5 pm.

Entry for the 100 target Sporting Clays Tournament is \$80, with proceeds to benefit youth sporting clays or "helping kids break more targets", as Chris liked to say.

Gervais, of Beldenville, passed away unexpectedly July 9. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 34 years, Belinda Hopp.

Hopp is a board member and secretary for the River Falls Sportsmen's Club.

Organizers intend to make the tourney an annual event to benefit youth sporting clays.



St. Croix Central international teens experience a safe intro to firearms

Faith Bonse, daughter of Keith Bonse and Ann Marie Bonse, invited St. Croix Central exchange student friends from Samia Bougarouane, from Spain, and Ilaria Balducci, from Italy, to the range recently to help dispell their impression that Americans don't use guns responsibly.

The teens fired .22 rifles, as well as pistols and a shotgun.

"Both girls had never shot a gun," said Faith. "We were at school one day and the conversation of hunting and shooting guns came up. I then told them that I was on the school trap team, they were shocked. I showed them pictures and they couldn't believe how casual it was, and how there was a sports program that allowed kids to shoot for a school. I talked to my dad to see if he would be ok with supervising and educating the girls on how to shot. He was more than excited to introduce people to shoot, and to show them that it doesn't have to be intimidating.

"My dad brought a .22 pistol, a .22 rifle, and a shotgun for them to try. Ilaria said " it was a super cool experience that [she] would have never had the chance to do in [her] country. [She] understood why people like shooting. It's super fun!"

The visitors departed with a new perspective on Americans and guns, said Rangemaster Ed Gibb.

"They're on our side now!" said Rangemaster Ed Gibb. "Seeing us first-hand changed two people's views of the position."

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huddled over Johnson, trying to rouse him.

Johnson was unresponsive and the men were unable to find a pulse so Gibb began CPR while Bogen performed rescue breathing.

Once the AED was opened, Gibb attached patches to Johnson's chest and the device quickly reported that a shock was needed. A recorded message warned caregivers to stand clear.

After the machine triggered, one of the men detected a faint pulse through Johnson's wrist.

Meanwhile, a St. Croix County sheriff's deputy responding radioed for RFPD to assist, since they were closer to the scene.

Within seconds, the arriving officers announced the patient was "conscious and talking" and other responding units could slow to routine.

Johnson said doctors soon determined he'd suffered cardiac arrest -- an electrical problem triggered by a disruption of the heart's rhythm. An angiogram showed he had suffered a heart attack some-

time in the past, which had affected a 16 percent area of his heart, but his body has already compensated by growing small collateral vessels that helped to restore blood flow. No blockages were found to warrant stent placement. Instead, he received a cardioverter defibrillator implant that can send an energy shock that resets an abnormal heartbeat back to normal.

The device is typically placed in the upper right chest, but because Johnson is a right-handed shooter, he requested the implant go into his upper left side. A few days after it was placed, he received an e-mail message from manufacturer Medtronic that his device was performing perfectly -- per data sent to them via its Bluetooth-enabled monitoring function.

Doctors told Johnson, who said he's been shooting trap at RFSC "for eons", he is not to resume trap league this summer, but he expects to continue his 60-plus year tradition of hunting pheasants in South Dakota with friends this October.

And he joked that he plans to ask club scorekeeper Sam Olsen to credit him for those first 10 broken birds.

Gibb was emphatic the life-saving response at the club was a "group effort".

He said there were about 20 people on the line and in the clubhouse that day. There was no shouting or panic by anyone -- just a smooth response.

The club's AED was purchased a couple years ago by the club, in hopes of helping someone else after a similar event occurred.

Johnson said he recalls the device has been used once before, but doesn't recall any details.

"Ninety percent of people who have cardiac arrest outside of a hospital will die," Dr. Sumit Ringwala, a cardiologist with Green Bay-area Bellin Health System said recently. "AEDs are critical tools for surviving cardiac arrest." The Packers announced a \$100,000 donation to buy AEDs after Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin's sudden cardiac arrest.

Becker, 23.5; 87th -Bryce McCurdy, 23.3; 99th-Riley Cran, 23.2. Among females, Madalyn Dull averaged 22.8; and Faith Bonse, 22.6

The River Falls Wildcats Trap Team also had a great 2023 Conference Season, Coach Nate Schultz reported in late July. The Intermediate Advanced shooting team took 1st place in Conference, Andrew Adermann won Top Conference Shooter Overall and Gavin Jennings won Top Intermediate Advanced Shooter Overall.

At the 2023 State Championships, Andrew Adermann won Collegiate State Champion, Gavin Jennings won Intermediate Advanced State Champion.

The Intermediate Advanced team of Jamison Schultz, Xander Halverson and John Weir took 2nd Place in the Sporting Clays.

At Nationals Cole Rogaczski represented well with a 15th place finish out of 752 in Last Man Standing competition.

The Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League (WISHCTL) is a subsidiary of the USA Clay Target League, which began in Minnesota in 2001.

Through 2008, it had just three teams and 30 participants. Today it has 1,625 teams with over 47,000 participants in 35 states this year.

The WISHCTL started in 2015, and now hosts 116 state school districts with teams competing.

The USA Clay Target League says it's the fastest-growing sport in America.

"In our league, there's no benchwarmers, so everybody is an important participant," said Matt Schneider, co-director of the WISHCTL. "Everybody's scores count."

"The league really promotes the idea of it not necessarily having to compete against the other sports as well. It's supposed to be flexible. I know a lot of school districts have very flexible times for the students to come and get their targets in. They don't have to choose between being on the clay target team and being on the baseball team or the softball team or the track team. They're able to do this in conjunction with other sports, and most of them double up."

Since the league began, there have been no reported injuries. "No concussions, broken arms, anything like that," said Schneider.

Many of the schools in the WISHCTL have elevated trap-shooting to the same level as traditional school sports.

"A few years ago, it was more of a club sport in a lot of schools," said Schneider, "and it seems that more and more schools are elevating it to being a lettering sport rather than a club sport."

To be eligible, students must complete either the Wisconsin DNR Hunter Safety Education Course or the league's SAFE Certification. Aside from league competition, there is a two-day state tournament in Rome, Wisconsin, and a national tournament. Participants can also earn scholarships, either

from colleges or local shooting clubs. Both Schneider and Dan Imhoff, the other co-director, said the league has been important for many shooting clubs.

A recent article by Bobbie Smith, published in On Wisconsin Outdoors, characterized Clay Target League and a companion program to develop archers -- National Archery in Schools Program -- as stressing patience, safety, teamwork, mental focus, ethics, self-discipline, and other skills that prepare students for success as adults and a lifelong passion for shooting



RF trap team members Meggan Daniels, Brooke Meyer, Roman Dav-enport, and Austin Belisle.



2023 Wildcat State American Trap collegiate shooter Andrew Adermann, left, and intermediate advanced shooter Gavin Jennings pose for a pix.



SCC teammates, from left, Isaac Bauer, Maddy Dull, and Oliver Cran, pose on the after winning top honors at state.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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Greyson Oldenburg, Sawyer Mikla, Syriss Mikla, and Keith Hansen completed staining of the retaining wall recently.

Fall clean-up is Sept. 23rd

Members and families are invited to earn some volunteer hours between 8 am and noon, Saturday, Sept. 23rd, as the club hosts its Fall Clean-Up day.

The task list includes: felling and clean-up of several trees, clean-up of an old fenceline on the new acreage, some tree-trimming, cleaning and sealing of outdoor gun racks and sealing of the outdoor staircase. Volunteers looking for exercise are also invited to join in a roadside cleanup that morning.

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	SUM-
MER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE		
WEDNESDAY	5 PM – 9 PM	SUM-
MER TRAP LEAGUE		
SUNDAY	11 AM – 3 PM	WIN-
TER, SUMMER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE		

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