



RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

DECEMBER, 2023

THIS ISSUE:

New members listed
HELP WANTED: Trap
manager recruitment

2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

John Pietenpol
715-781-0799

VICE-PRESIDENT

Parker Heise
715-781-7708

SECRETARY

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

Scholarship deadline nears

High school seniors who plan to pursue higher education are urged to apply for the club's \$1,000 scholarship. Deadline is March 31, 2024.

The money can be used toward tuition at a technical or traditional college institution.

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

Applications are on the clubhouse bulletin board or download from this [link](#).

Annual meeting is Saturday, Jan. 6; five board seats open

The annual membership meeting will be held at 1 pm, Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 at the River Falls Moose Lodge #594, 620 N. Clark St.

Doors open at 11 am for "social hour" so members can renew memberships, socialize at the Moose bar and enjoy hors d'oeuvres prior to the meeting.

Members are reminded to bring along their old gate key, an honest summary of hours volunteered this past year, and proof of NRA membership (Can't find your card? Bring along the cover from your most recent *American Hunter*, *American Rifleman*, or *Shooting Illustrated*. Mailing label contains your expiration date.)

Membership costs remain unchanged: Individual adult, \$150 (or \$75 with four com-

pleted volunteer hours); Family, \$210 (or \$105 with volunteer hours); and Junior, \$25 (must present a certified Hunter Safety card. No NRA membership required.)

Renewing members also receive a raffle ticket offering a chance to win one of three guns (make/models still TBD), or a \$500 gift card for purchases from Shoot'em Up Sports. Drawing will take place at the end of the meeting. You must be present to win.

Appetizers are expected to include barbeque meatballs, chicken wings, vegetables & dip, nacho chips and other snacks.

Annual meeting will begin at 1 pm. Per by-laws, the agenda will include elections for five board seats, including those now held by Parker Heise (vice-

president), Belinda Hopp (secretary), Ed Gibb (Rangemaster) Brad Cran (director) and Mike Robey (director).

Members can nominate themselves or any member in good standing.

Anyone with with questions about the meeting or board responsibilities may call any of the sitting board members listed on page one for details.

A postcard "reminder" will also be sent out prior to the meeting.

Those unable to attend the Jan. 6 meeting can renew a membership and obtain a new gate key by stopping by the club between 11 am and 3 pm, Sundays, during Winter trap league, or stop by ahead of a board meeting, which are held at 7 pm, the second Monday of each month.

Help Wanted: Trap Manager

Looking for a part-time job that blends customer service, light bookkeeping, youth mentorship and a comfort level with firearms? Consider applying to become trap manager for the River Falls Sportsmen's Club.

The 23-week position requires a club presence from 4:30 to 10 pm, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, Sundays (16 hrs. plus an hour outside of club). A person is also needed for winter trap league -- from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, for 10 Sundays.

Our manager registers and tracks shooting results, hires and supervises youth trap house workers, conducts routine banking, and other duties as specified. The trap manager is the club's only paid employee aside from the trap house workers.

For more details, please contact Club Manager Allen Gallistel at 715-426-4895 or rfsc@sbcglobal.net.



Safer climbs

Visitors to the 100-yard range will experience safer climbs and descents thanks to work by carpenter John Evans who removed the old and reconstructed the staircase in early October. Evans received \$2,300 for demo of the old and construction of the updated stairs, which includes a mid-climb landing for safety.

Please welcome these new RFSC members!

Lindsay Bednar and Jesse Iverson
(September)

Lindsay Beyer, John Robinson, Brooke Casey, Brett Klein, Judson Doman, Emily Heinbach, Roman Davenport, Ariel Ingli, Isaac Herrel, Carley Gehrke, Wyatt Stehr, Owen Kramer, Kyle Stauffer, Anthony Cox, James Klatt, Ben Hagen, Jacob Regan, Alexis DuPont, Joseph McCarthy, Milan Monchilovich, Cooper & Carter Moldenhauer, and Aaron Ellefson. **(October)**

None — **November**

Upcoming

Saturday, Jan. 6 - Annual meeting, 1 pm, RF Moose Lodge.

Saturday, May 18 — State 4-H competition.

Saturday, Aug. 3 — Pierce County Fair Summer Shoot.

Motorized wheel-chair initiative still in-play

Directors expressed support for ongoing efforts to secure an all-terrain wheelchair for use by area organizations. An effort begun last summer the River Falls School District to procure an all-terrain wheelchair through Access Ability Wisconsin -- a Mineral Point-based foundation that provides off-road chairs to non-profits for use by the public. The District recently abandoned the effort when when it became apparent AAW's rules and marketing requirements were too cumbersome to navigate.

A motorized chair would allow disabled students ready access to outings at the recently opened River Falls School Forest (located off CTH FF, near the city dog park). A number of other organizations, including Pierce County ADRC and veteran's groups, Trout Unlimited, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust have expressed support for availability of a community-based chair.

Nathan Schultz, president of Kinnickinnic Chapter of Pheasants Forever told directors in October that organization has been trying for three years to procure a chair for use by members and others. He asked if the club would support the effort.

Treasurer Ben Gaus said he believes it's something the club should be involved with. President John Pietenpol was also supportive of the idea and asked that the board be kept apprised of how it could help in the future.

Currently, the nearest AAW loaner chairs are hosted by the Blue Hills Sportsman's Club at Rice Lake, and at the Beaver Creek Reserve, near Eau Claire.



Flames were licking high by the time volunteers arrived for the fall clean-up, Sept. 23rd. Nate Herum fed the pile with a skid-steer.



Eric Swenson manned a stump grinder on a skid steer to remove a box elder stump, left, while Ray Nelson assisted Greg and Caleb Johnson stripping grapevine from the line fence near the 100-yard range.



UW-RF student Milan Monchilovich, of Cumberland, a college trap team member joined about 30 others to help.



Dan Herum operated Eric Swenson's John Deere, hauling a downed box elder across the trap range to a burn pile.



September fundraiser declared 'success' with \$20K-plus earned

Club members enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and fellowship Sept. 8th at the River Falls Golf Club -- and many took home prizes.

Club treasurer Ben Gaus reported the event "went well, considering" some delays in mailing invites and raffle tickets. More than 135 members and guests attended. The steak and chicken buffet meal was provided by Pairfection Catering, River Falls. So many guests attended that Pairfection ran out of entrees to serve the last diners -- volunteers, so a separate event was scheduled for early December to acknowledge the work by event chair Brad Cran and other volunteers.

Silent auction donors included: Kinni Sport & Power, A1 Archery, Dave Pietenpol, Rob Richardson, Rich & Cindy Peterson, Airtech Sports - Roberts, Whispering Emerald Ridge Game Farm, Sean Heide, Brad Cran & Vortex Optics, Mel

Warren, Dan Herrum, Dave Thorsen, Roger Hinkley, Scott McLeod, Ben Gaus, Chris & Megan Dull.

Others, contributing at the "Sponsor" level were: Scott McLeod (Shoot Em Up Sports), Keith Bonse, Brian Gibb, Travis Schnick (Lund Builders), John Pietenpol, River Falls State Bank, Mel Warren, Joe Schara, Ben Gaus, Bob LaValley, Dale Stewart (Affordable Water Softeners), Pat Kusilek (Midwest Crane), Lars Loberg (Loberg Law), Jim Williamson, Mike Herron, and Ellsworth Rod & Gun.

A volunteer appreciation gathering and meal was planned for Friday, Dec. 1st, to recognize members and others who assisted at the September club fundraiser. Treasurer Ben Gaus offered to prepare the meal entree, while other board members contributed potatoes, vegetables and deserts for the event.



RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

PO Box 336

RIVER FALLS, WI 54022-0336



Beautifully level apron

Shooters now enjoy a level apron at the 16-yard line near House #1, thanks to club funds and Zempel Concrete LLC, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Directors voted unanimously in early October to spend \$7,800 to demo and replace the apron and complete the partial concrete floor in the shed on the new property. The work was completed in mid-October.

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

WWW.RIVERFALLSPORTSMENSClub.COM/

