



# THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

MARCH, 2024

## THIS ISSUE:

New members listed

Access drive on new acreage to be done soon

New scoring stands built for Eagle Scout project

2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **PRESIDENT**

John Pietenpol  
715-781-0799

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Parker Heise  
715-781-7708

### **SECRETARY**

Brad Cran

### **TREASURER**

Ben Gaus

### **RANGE MASTER**

Ed Gibb

### **CHIEF INSTRUCTOR**

Kevin Larson  
715-495-5114

### **CLUB MANAGER**

Allen Gallistel  
715-426-4895

### **DIRECTORS**

Dan Herum  
Rachel Vogt  
Nate Schultz

## Members elect two new directors, hear '23 highlights

About 75 River Falls Sportsmen's Club loyalists gathered at the Moose Lodge on a balmy Saturday, Jan. 6th to elect two new directors, hear highlights of 2023, renew memberships, and remember members who've passed.

President John Pietenpol convened the meeting at 1:05 pm, reflecting on the loss of club member Chris Gervais and inviting those present to reflect with a moment of silence. He also remarked on a club member whose life was likely saved by use of AED purchased by the club.

Among accomplishments in past year, Pietenpol noted improvements, including the planting of trees on the new acreage, dirt work and grading around the buildings -- donated by Total Excavating -- and operator Matt Passofaro. He also pointed out concrete replacement near the 16-yard house, concrete finished in the new shed, new shooting benches at the 100- and 200-yard ranges, cleaning and repainting of the retaining wall; extension of electricity to and new shed and adjacent well, and new, safer stairs constructed to access the 100-yard range.

Under the "Community Outreach" topic, Pietenpol noted the Club's providing of trap facilities for River Falls and St. Croix Central trap teams; facilities access for introduction to firearms and 4-H Shooting Sports led by Chief Instructor Kevin Lar-



**President John Pietenpol, left, gave the 2023 President's Award to three active volunteers: Dan Herum, Eric Swenson, and Jeff Vogt. Photo courtesy of Nate Schultz.**

son; range access for two Appleseed sessions; the spring and autumn roadside cleanup led by Brad Cran; range access for River Falls PD training; and sponsorship/partnership with the WDNR on a carcass collection dumpster in River Falls.

Pietenpol also recognized: Ed Gibb for ram-rodding spring and fall clean-up days; Steve Dzubay for newsletter production; RF and SCC trap teams for clean-up help; Matt Herum for donated electrical work; and Nick Larson and Brad Cran for heading up the banquet committee, which resulted in a sell-out crowd in 2023 with 128 attendees. He encouraged others to reach out to Cran if they'd like to become involved in any aspect of the 2024 fundraiser.

Pietenpol offered his "President's Award" to members Eric Swenson, Dan Herum and Jeff Vogt. Swenson and Herum provided skills, time and equipment for clearing trees, while Vogt took on the task of monitoring brush fires over the course of days to spruce up the property.

The next visible improvement will be the addition of an access drive, walking path, and overflow parking area on the new property.

Member Jim Phillips offered his thanks for modification of stools on the ranges and the new staircase, while requesting that stools on the 50-yard range be cut-down to 21 inches.

Elections were convened. The position of president was not up for election.

Sitting vice-president Parker Heise was returned to his position by unanimous consent.

Board member Brad Cran was elected secretary by a margin of 48 to 34 over nominee Lynn Schneider. Ed Gibb was returned to the post of Rangemaster by unanimous consent.

Nominees for two director seats included Nate Schultz, Dan Herum, and Brian Roquette. Schultz and Herum won 77- and 53 votes, respectively, over 39 for Roquette.

*(Distilled from minutes graciously provided by outgoing secretary Belinda Hopp.)*

## Spring Clean Up !

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

2024 Clean Up Day is planned for Saturday, April 29th from 8 am to Noon. Work will include grounds- and roadside clean-up, tree-trimming and more TBD.

*Please welcome these new RFSC members!*

Mark Janda, Adam Axvig, and Michael Hanlon  
(December)

Vincent Cherry, Tom Haultch, Ian Hauth, Daniel Geister, Scott Ziegler, and Kyle Kamish (January)

Kevin Dunn, Chris Hoff, Nathan Nelson, Mason Klennon, Kyle Erickson, and Casey Bormann. (February)

## Upcoming

**Saturday-Sunday, April 20-21;** Shorter ranges closed for Project Appleseed Rifle Marksmanship.

**Saturday, April 29th** - Annual Spring clean-up, 8-noon.

## Help recruit a graduating senior for the club's scholarship

Members will notice that an application for the club's scholarship is included with this mailing.

Unfortunately, you must be a student to apply, but please reflect on whether there are any young people in your "circle" -- kids, grandchildren, friends' or neighbors' kids -- who might be eligible.

It's a lucrative offering and club leadership would love to see more competition for the award.

Please share the application if there's someone you know who might benefit.

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2023. Complete instructions are included on the application itself.

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### Newsletter

*Comments, criticism, contributions, suggestions or club -related questions are welcomed. Write, text or call Steve Dzubay at #715-821-7537 or [stevendzubay@gmail.com](mailto:stevendzubay@gmail.com)*

# New driving access to property will add parking; walking path terminates near cook-shelter

Directors voted unanimously in February to hire Total Excavating to create an east-west driveway off the existing club parking lot to connect the gravel drive on the new property and create a lot for overflow parking. The scope of work includes stripping and respreading top soil from the drive- and lot area, as well as creating a graveled walking path from the parking area to the existing cook shelter on the NW corner of the clubhouse.

Board member Dan Herum provided the board with a map and bid, received after meeting with Total's Nikko Miller in January. The bid of \$8,712.50 would provide for grading work and approximately 350 tons of aggregate material. After discussion, board members decided to request creation of the additional walking path. The exact price wasn't known at

the time, but it was expected Total Excavating's offer of a 10 percent discount off the bid would likely cover the additional path. The motion to proceed was made by Ed

Gibb, seconded by Ben Gaus. It's hoped the work can be completed ahead of a planned spring clean-up day on Saturday, April. 27th.



**This photo mock-up from Total Excavating shows the proposed location of the new drive and graveled parking areas planned for the new acreage west of the existing club parking lot. The east-west path will begin near the shed.**

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## Board briefs

**The prospect of finding** a vendor to complete a lead reclamation project at the club remains alive, vice-president Parker Heise reported during the February meeting. A Missouri firm, Gibson-Ricketts LLC, has or is expected to do an excavation and salvage of lead from the Holman Rod & Gun Club, north of LaCrosse, this year. Based on RFSC records of clay targets purchased over a decade or more, Heise and others calculate that soil surrounding the trap and stationary ranges contain lead from about 2.5 million rounds. The reclaiming firm shares profits from the resale of lead. One recent job which recovered 45 tons, yielded \$22,000 for that club.

Information on Gibson-Ricketts' website says the firm has completed more than 100 projects, recovering more than 20 million pounds of lead since 2007. The firm uses heavy equipment to remove the top layer of soil, then sifts it through varying sizes and types of screens to separate the lead from all other materials. Once the screening process is done, tailings are returned to the shot fall area and contours restored.

Heise promised to keep the board apprised of progress in securing a contract.

**Rangemaster Ed Gibb asked** directors to revisit narrative on signboard in the trap area that outline "General Safety Rules" and "Etiquette".

Gibb described a situation recently where a young shooter was walking near the line with his break-action shotgun balanced on his shoulder, with the muzzle pointed behind him. Gibb said he politely reminded the lad that his barrel should be pointed forward, toward the ground where he could see it. The teen responded that the "action was open" so it shouldn't matter which way he chose to carry the gun, dismissing Gibb and walking away. Gibb suggested that revising the "General Safety Rules" narrative to reflect such specific habits would affirm his position and remove ambiguity. Club manager Allen Gallistel agreed, saying he has texts for the various signboards on his computer and will search them out. President John Pietenpol mused that any gun on-site must be cased or have its action open unless the bearer is at the line, preparing to shoot.

# New scoring stand completed by student shooter, Eagle Scout candidate Keirka Kretzmann

Trap enthusiasts will notice a new-and-improved scoring stands have been constructed at the range, compliments of would-be Eagle Scout Keirka Kretzmann and a group of supporters.

Kretzmann, 17, the daughter of Martin and Tabitha Kretzmann, is a senior at River Falls High School.

She began trap-shooting as a freshman because she wanted to be involved with the respected Wildcat team.

"I now have fallen in love with all shooting sports, especially sporting clays, and I plan to continue participating in shooting sports throughout my whole life," she said in an e-mail exchange.

Last September, Kretzmann spoke to the board inquiring whether the club would help pay for materials if she were to build a new scoring stand as part of her Eagle Scout project. Members were supportive and asked her to coordinate with Rangemaster Ed Gibb when she'd cemented her plans.

Earlier this winter, Kretzmann -- backed by a team of supporters -- arrived at the range with tools and materials to assemble her project.

Kretzmann explained that in 2019, the Boys Scouts of America welcomed females and have rebranded as the Scouts of America.

"It's important to note that Girl Scouts remains a distinct entity. I've been heavily involved in the program by founding, Troop 7071 of Afton, Minn., in the (course) of almost five years, have been working towards the esteemed Eagle Scout rank.

"I spent a long time researching projects and I

knew that I wanted to partner with the Sportsman's Club since they contribute so much to our community, so when it was suggested to update the scoring stands, it was a perfect fit!

"This project satisfies one of the most challenging requirements necessary to earn the Eagle Scout rank. The badge calls for a Scout to plan, develop and provide leadership to others in a service project for their community.

The project lots of paperwork and planning, and coordination to find others who could help coach Kretzmann on skills she lacked. .

"Through this project, I gained valuable experience in effectively leading both adults and students toward a common goal," she said in explaining the project. "I am sincerely grateful for everyone who supported the project!"



**Keirka Kretzmann's helper group included some River Falls Wildcat Shooting Sports participants along with family and friends. Keirka and Providence Kretzmann are at top of the frame. Others include: Aaron Lee, Tim Rogers, Mark Klecker, Andrew O'Connor, Fischer Kretzmann, Jamison Schultz, Sawyer Pemble, Toby Schmidt, Reuben Schmidt, Dave Skinner, and Tabitha Kretzmann. Photo submitted.**



## New Leadership

**Members elected two new directors and a new secretary at the Jan. 6th annual meeting at the River Falls Moose Lodge. Brad Cran, top left, taking over from Belinda Hopp, while Dan Herum, top right, and Nate Schultz, second from top left, were elected to fill director's posts vacated by Brad Cran and Mike Robey. The 2024 board includes, from front left: Rachel Vogt, Kevin Larson, Allen Gallistel, and Ed Gibb. Top row, from left: Cran, Schultz, President John Pietenpol, Treasurer Ben Gaus, Vice-President Parker Heise, and Herum.**

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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### German visitors

RFSC member Charlie Jansen recently played host to international visitors at the range. From left: Jansen; Simon Hager, Hilden, Germany; Scott Ciliske, St. Paul; Florian Malkrab and Thomas Buescher, both from Hilden. The guests are 3M engineers who were visiting to learn about new equipment they'll be receiving in Hilden. Jansen and Ciliske are retired 3M'ers who've worked with Thomas through the years and knew of his enthusiasm for shooting sports so they offered a first time at trap shooting. *Photo courtesy of Ed Gibb.*

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.RIVERFALLSSPORTSMENSClub.COM/](http://WWW.RIVERFALLSSPORTSMENSClub.COM/)