



RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

SEPTEMBER, 2024

THIS ISSUE:

New members listed

Passings of Charlie Doty, Dick Pietso noted

Shane Hoff offers shot-coaching assistance

2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Pietenpol
715-781-0799

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715-781-7708

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Kevin Larson
715-495-5114

CLUB MANAGER

Allen Gallistel
715-426-4895

DIRECTORS

Dan Herum
Rachel Vogt
Nate Schultz

Gala draws smaller-than-hoped crowd, tallies underway

Sportsmen's Club members responded enthusiastically to mailed raffle tickets, but less so, to the Club's invitation to attend its annual fundraising banquet.

Attendance at the first-time Killarney Hills Golf Club venue was lighter than hoped, but participants enjoyed an evening of fellowship, games, live-and silent auction action, and a good meal, according to event chair Brad Cran.

Club treasurer Ben Gaus reported to the board on Monday, Sept. 9th, that revenues and expenses were still being tallied, but he expected net profit to the club would likely be "somewhere in the \$8,000 to \$9,000 range when everything comes in."

Attendance, including volunteer workers, totaled about 85 people, according event chair, Brad Cran.

Board members were appreciative of the work by committee members, volunteers, indi-

viduals and businesses that contributed items for the silent and live auctions.



Member Mel Warren preps clipboards for volunteers who clerked various banquet raffles. Photo courtesy of Brad Cran.

Later in the meeting, Gaus posed the question to no one in particular: "Are we going to keep doing it? It's an awful lot of work. Why don't we have more members show up for the banquet?"

Member Steve Dzubay asked whether the direct mailing of raffle tickets to each member yielded enough sales to justify the cost.

Gaus said pre-banquet raffle ticket sales more than covered the cost. The mailing carries a letter and invitation for the event.

Directors mutually agreed the results were disappointing. Some attendees attributed light attendance on conflicts with a Green Bay Packer game, the UW-RF rodeo, and a Wildcats game. "There's just an awful lot of things available to do," someone said.

President John Pietenpol suggested waiting for the committee's report before deciding on a future banquet.

New club-themed apparel available to buy NOW

A conversation that began last spring has culminated with the opening of an on-line "store" where members can purchase new Sportsmen's Club-theme t-shirts, pullovers, beanies, brimmed caps and hoodies. But organizer Rachel Vogt encourages members to hurry; special discounts sunset on Sept. 23rd.

Visit the store at <https://rivercitystitch.com/collections/river-falls-sportsmens-club>.

Vogt initiated the project



months ago, but it took several board meetings to reach consensus on the redesigned logo, which items to offer, colors, etc.

All ordered items will be delivered to the clubhouse when completed.

Items must be paid for in advance, either by cash, check, or charge.



Scan QR code for website

Don't forget Clean-Up Day Saturday, Sept. 21st

The Club's annual fall clean-up day is from 8-noon on Saturday. Bring gloves, a rake, chainsaw if you have it — or just yourselves. Ed Gibb and Dan Herum will find a satisfying job for you. We'll wrap up early if the punch-list is exhausted. It's a great way to fulfill volunteer hours. Donuts and cookies are welcome too.

Please welcome these

Aaron Rodewald, Charles Hyde, Victor & Megan Fern, Luke Gutzmann, and Dan Swenson.

(June)

Don Rutledge and Jaden Zezza (July)

David Johnson, Andrew Kurt, and Dean Quick. (August)

William Reisner, Chuck Riley, Greg Fuchs, Nick Score, Scott Greschner, James & Bridget Burgess, and John Brunke (September)

Upcoming

- Annual fall clean-up day will begin at 8 am, Saturday, Sept. 21st with Dan Herum and Ed Gibb sharing oversight responsibilities. Task list is still being formed. One suggestion was construction of several new stands for the archery range. Ed Gibb said the club has some spare/replacement targets on-hand, but existing stands need some improvement.
- St. Croix Central Trap Team will shoot from 6-9 pm Thursdays and 3:15- 6pm Sundays, Sept. 5- Oct. 24.
- River Falls Shooting Sports has reserved the range from 1-3 pm, Saturday, Oct. 12.
- UW-River Falls Shooting Club has trap house reservations for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Sept. 25- Nov. 27.
- Fall Trap League begins Tuesday, Sept. 24th, continuing from 5-9 on Tuesdays, and 11-3 each Sunday, through Oct. 27. A shortage of trap helpers availability on Tuesdays may require participants to help out with loading and scoring.

'Gun Board' still active

RFSC visitors can help the club financially by purchasing a \$20 chance at a new Browning rifle. The X-Bolt 30.06 hunting rifle features a satin walnut checkered stock, matte blue barrel and action, detachable rotary magazine, short throw bolt and adjustable trigger. The raffle coincides with the 20-week run of trap league. Squares are available for purchase at the bar.

Newsletter

Comments, criticism, contributions, suggestions, obits, and club - related questions are welcomed. Write, text or call Steve Dzubay at #715-821-7537 or stevendzubay@gmail.com

Member offers shot-coaching for beginners, seasoned shooters who might like to hone some specific skills

Club members and others who wish to develop their skills with pistol or rifle, become more effective at defending themselves, or boost talent and confidence with long-range rifle might consider hiring member Shane Hoff for some coaching.

Hoff, of Hudson, approached RFSC directors in March for permission to use the range for occasional teaching sessions. Classes would only be scheduled around open range time. There were no objections. Directors approved Hoff's request at the April meeting with the qualifier that non-members pay a \$10/day fee for range use.

Hoff, a native of South Dakota - outside of Mitchell for a time, then moved to MT as a late teen. who holds a degree in mechanical engineering from MSU-Bozeman, works as a development engineer for a firm that handles energy work for the federal government. Outside of work, his passion is shooting and helping others to improve their skills.

His interest began as a

'I want people to leave a class- with a smile on their face ... and confident in the operation of whatever platform they are using.'

— *Shane Hoff*

youngster, "carrying a BB gun through the corn fields with dad, 'hunting' pheasants (but in reality, learning to carry a firearm safely," Hoff said in an e-mail exchange. He shot trap in high school, then fell in love with elk hunting while living in Montana.

"My desire to teach people my passion, for shooting has existed my entire life," said Hoff. As a non-law enforcement officer or ex-military, the path to instruction is one that is only achieved by personal drive, and



Shane Hoff

sure you will find another instructor that has such a passion for teaching and giving to my students. That commitment involves keeping my skills, and teaching skills, sharp. I am driven by a thirst of curiosity."

Hoff, who holds an NRA range & safety officer certification, and is a Wisconsin Hunter Safety instructor, said he's found various curriculums to be "heavy in the facts, not too heavy in the (actual) handling firearms, nor the art of instruction. That has to come from experience."

For a time, he got "heavy into shooting -- entering gun- and precision rifle competitions ... learning each of these firearms as kind of a deep-dive, every year or so picking a new platform. My interests have shifted heavily into the application side of shooting. Applicable defensive pistol, applicable defensive rifle, and applicable precision rifle - including but not limited to medium to long range hunting applications. These competition genres allow for a good pressure check of skills (but) they miss out on a lot of the applicable side of things."

Hoff is equally comfortable teaching one-on-one or in a group setting.

"I want people to leave a class- with a smile on their face, knowing where they were, where they are, and where they want to be, how they are going to get there. That's different from person to person."

Hoff offered these solutions to

time and money commitment. I have enjoyed teaching, and enjoy passing information and the passion on to those around me. You will find other instructors; I am not

various scenarios:

How could you help a concealed-carry permit holder regain confidence years after completing the required certification?

"A few ways: a 2-to-3-hour, -one- or two-on-one coaching session, where we cover all the basics" at the student's pace. He or she can ask questions, feel super safe, and therefore grow more confident. Usually those who leave these short sessions, quickly book a pistol course with a group. This also allows for such good conversations around holster, gear, ammo, and the day-to-day reality of being around firearms."

How about helping a parent who didn't grow up around firearms but wants to get into bird-hunting because their teen has become involved in high school shooting sports?

"I'm not the instructor to teach trap or pheasant shooting. There was a time in my life, but I have been so far into the other areas of shooting, this is not my area. There are great instructors for that. However, if that parent wanted to take his son or daughter deer hunting for the first time, I can absolutely help, and have in the past. I can teach them firearm safety, the fundamentals of accuracy, I can usually get kids' 100-yard group sizes down by a factor of four, all while raising their understanding and confidence of shooting. This type of instruction is usually a custom two- to four- hour deal, where we also cover shooting positions, building a shooting positions, and how to be effective, smooth, and confident in the operation of whatever platform they are using."

How about a Northwoods brush-hunter invited on a first-ever western hunt, but isn't confident making a 300-yard shot in the mountains?

"Handgun, tactical rifle, and precision rifles are my three areas of expertise. My courses of "introduction to scoped/precision rifles" and "Two-day precision rifle", can help a student to understand- fundamentals of accuracy, shooting positions, how their optic works, how bullets travel over distance, and how to make long range shots.

President offers range safety reminder

During July's board meeting, Rangemaster Ed Gibb advised he'd received a complaint or two of range-users "shooting short" -- meaning shooters had positioned targets some distance ahead of the 15-, 25- or 50-yard backstops. President John Pietenpol volunteered to help clarify for members -- citing #11 in the club's "Rules and Regulations" distributed to all members during his new member briefings. Gibb also asked shooters be reminded of range rule #14: Clean up after shooting. "Pick up any spent ammunition and litter. Use available trash cans, or "pack it out" when you leave.

Pietenpol shared this message:

"It has come to the attention of River Falls Sportsmen's Board that some members on the 15, 25, 50, or 100 yard ranges have been setting up targets some distance in front of the designated impact berms on these ranges. Our rules state "ALL FIRING must be DIRECTED DOWNRANGE at an appropriate target and targets must be placed so bullets will directly impact the berm to avoid the possibility of ricochets". There are signs on all the ranges showing that placing targets short of the berms is not allowed. Please adhere to this rule as we do not want the possibility of rounds leaving the property.

Also, it is the responsibility of all members to clean up after they are done shooting. This includes cleaning up any spent brass and any targets that were used. We have had multiple complaints that this is not being done by some members. Remember this is your club and it takes all of us to keep it a clean and safe place to enjoy shooting. Thank you for your cooperation"

— **River Falls Sportsmen's Club Board**

Members lost

Charles (Charlie) Taylor Doty, 84, of Hudson, died May 28, 2024.

Charlie was born in Gregory, SD, and grew up in Nebraska near Butte on the Niobrara River where he learned to love the outdoors, fish, hunt, farm and fix anything.

His path into electrical engineering was sealed when electricity arrived on his family's farm in 1954.

Charlie spent his career with 3M in St. Paul. In retirement, he worked in technical sales for Midmac, an industrial electronic and electrical parts supplier.

He and late wife Barbara enjoyed traveling the country with their fifth-wheel camper, arriving in the "boot heel" of New Mexico near Rodeo each winter.

Charlie was a commensurate tinkerer. He loved working with wood, polymers, blacksmithing, wire forms and was always improving electrical and mechanical devices. His designs were uniquely creative, and he was never found without a pen in his pocket...always ready to sketch an idea on paper.

He shared his woodworking talents with the gun club by contributing silent auction items for the annual fundraiser.

See a complete obituary at www.cremationsociety-wi.com.



Charlie Doty

Richard "Dick" Peitso, 80, died Aug. 14, 2024, at The Sycamore of River Falls.

Dick was born March 22nd, 1944, in Ely, MN, and spent his childhood fishing, swimming and hunting near Ely and Robinson. He graduated from Ely Memorial High School then attended Ely Junior College before transferring to UMD in Duluth to complete a bachelors degree in science education. He later earned a master's degree in chemistry from Miami of Ohio on a NSF scholarship.

Dick married Lorraine Jarvi in 1966 at Ely. The couple moved to Spooner where Dick taught at Northwoods High School in Minong, before moving to River Falls. Dick taught high school at New Richmond for 30-plus years, retiring in 1999.

He was an avid outdoorsman, spending hours at their cabin he built by hand near Cumberland, and was an active member of the RFSC, shooting every Monday evening in the warmer months. Dick was part of the MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio Service) as the Wisconsin state director for many years running local communication and helping with facilitating community events and public service.

He is survived by his spouse, Lorraine Peitso and daughter, Leah Peitso.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024 at Bakken-Young Funerary & Cremation Services, with interment to be in Lake View Cemetery, Tower, Minn.

See a complete obituary at <https://bakken-young.com/richard-peitso-08-14-2024>



Dick Pietso

Public sight-in days set; sponsorship re-upped on carcass collection with WDNR, City of RF

Range facilities will be open to the public from 9 am to 1 pm, four dates ahead of Wisconsin's deer gun opener. Volunteers will be available to assist on Saturdays, Nov. 2nd, 9th, and 16th, and on Friday, Nov. 22nd -- ahead the Nov. 23rd opener.

Cost will be \$10 per gun with targets provided. Member-volunteers will be on-hand to offer coaching advice.

Also, directors again approved expenditure of \$500 to co-sponsor a deer carcass disposal site in River Falls.

The Wisconsin DNR organizes and publicizes drop-off locations on its website, and covers costs for additional containers, if needed.

Club President John Pietenpol suggested signage be enhanced to make sure users know the Sportsmen's Club is involved with funding the effort.

A roll-off is expected to be dropped in mid-October to accommodate bow-hunters.

The location is expected to be in the turnaround area outside the River Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant on South Apollo Road. The area is accessible 24/7. The roll-off is expected to remain for at least a week after the close of gun-deer season into early December.



Eagle Scout project completed

James Vogt, son of members Rachel and Jeff Vogt, a Boy Scout with Roberts-Hammond Troop 161, recently completed work on his Eagle Scout project. Vogt raised over \$600 to purchase and replace the Club's old 15-ft. pole with a 25-ft., wind-resistant, lighted pole, plus new landscaping. Excess cash he raised was donated to the Club's Junior Shooter fund. James has worked as a trap helper at the club for two years and is also a member of the St. Croix Central Trap team. The project was approved by the board earlier this year.

Board briefs

A BACKLOG ON DELIVERY of trophies to trap team and individual winners from 2022 and 2023 continues to plague the club, manager Allen Gallistel reported in June. Orders have been back-logged with Riverland Laser due to a change of ownership and incomplete information from the club. About 125 trophies are past-due from the 2022 season, and about 70 from 2023. The estimated \$9,000 cost to fulfill the order far exceeds fees the club collected from participants. Several board members said they didn't care about receiving trophies or plaques, and other individuals and teams might feel the same way. The issue was tabled. Gallistel reported at the August meeting that he'd contacted a number of participants and the number of trophies needed has been reduced. As of September 9, final proofs were being prepared and plaques are expected to be in production soon.

SOME UNEXPLAINED USE of trap facilities prompted a board decision to change locks on the trap houses. Gibb has noticed irregularities in restocking of birds a few times, indicating throwers are being used outside of normal league or scheduled shoots. It is unknown how many people have keys to the shed since locks haven't changed in several years. Pietenpol asked Gibb to work with Mike Rodewald in procuring new locks and keys, then compile a list of who has been issued keys. Gibb had new keys to share at the September board meeting and the issue wasn't discussed any further.

J & S LAWCARE WILL NO LONGER provide mowing services to the club in 2025, so the board is seeking bids for a service or individual to mow the clubhouse and west property areas periodically.

SNOW REMOVAL AT THE CLUB will continue to be provided by volunteers from the River Falls County-Liners snowmobile club in exchange for access to the clubhouse for twice-monthly meetings, at 7 pm the first- and third Tuesdays of the month, October through March. The "Plow-Boys" -- usually Jim and Greg Feyereisen -- do their best to clear the parking lot as soon as possible after snowfalls, said Gallistel. He has heard complaints from members about the timeliness of snow removal in the past. Directors chatted about the cost of contracting plowing with an outside firm, but concluded that aside from access for Winter League shooting participants on Sundays in January, there isn't enough urgency to justify paying for contracted snow removal.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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Banquet volunteers

A contingent from River Falls Shooting Sports helped promote and clerk at the banquet. From left: Rachael Schultz, Jamison Schultz, Tatum Richardson, Nicole House, and Max Vanoverbeke. Photo courtesy of Nate Schultz.

RANGE FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS 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/