



# THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

DECEMBER, 2025

**THIS ISSUE:**

**Clean-Up day successes**

**Archery interest grows with 3D range 'critters'**

**Various board actions**

2025

**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**

Eric Swenson  
715-760-0499

**DIRECTORS**

Dan Herum  
Rachel Vogt  
Nate Schultz



**Roadside clean-up**

Volunteers pose with treasures found along Hwys. 65 & J during the fall clean-up day Sept. 6th at RFSC. Photo courtesy Brad Cran.

## Repaving project completed; final 'lift' next spring

Crews from Asphalt Maintenance & Paving, Spring Valley, completed the first round of work on RFSC parking lot improvements in late October.

Total cost for the two-season job landed at \$69,300 -- including \$400 for spring clean-up, prior to application of a second "lift" in early 2026.

At the August board meeting, directors approved -- then rescinded a motion to proceed with the project, pending a daylight inspection of the lot and consideration of changes to the existing pavement footprint.

That motion was eventually rescinded and replaced by another offered by Ben Gaus, seconded by Brad Cran to approve the expenditure in concept, with specific details to be worked

out after another walk-through with the contractor. In discussion at the August meeting, director Nate Schultz questioned the timing. "This is just a lot of money -- to just take the lead (proceeds) and spend it on (improvements)?" Vogt

reminded that lot improvements have been discussed for several years and some areas are completely broken up.

A final vote on the project occurred via e-mail in late August with six directors vot- **continued on Page 2**



Members may notice a new north-to-south slope near the clubhouse front door, created to redirect run-off and save paving material.

## Annual meet set for Jan. 3 at Moose Lodge

This year's annual membership meeting will be held at 1 pm, Saturday, Jan. 3 at the River Falls Moose Lodge #594, 620 N. Clark St.

Doors open at 11 am for membership renewal with complimentary appetizers provided.

Members who stop by to renew and choose to stay for the meeting will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a gun. There will be other raffles for both guns and other shooting related items as well. All drawings occur at the conclusion of the meeting and winners must be present to win.

Members are reminded to bring along their old gate key, an honest summary of volunteer hours worked over the past year, and proof of NRA membership. (NRA card or

mailing label from a recent copy of *American Hunter*, *American Rifleman*, or *Shooting Illustrated*.)

Membership costs for 2026 have increased over last year -- the result of a board request approved by the membership at last year's annual meeting. New rates are Adult - \$180 or \$90 with four completed volunteer hours; Family - \$270 or \$135 with four completed volunteer hours, and a junior membership is \$30.

Clothing items and mugs with the new River Falls Sportsmen's Club logo will be available for purchase.

Annual meeting will begin at 1 pm. Per by-laws, the agenda will include elections for the positions of club vice-president (Parker Heise), secretary (Brad Cran), club manager (Eric Swenson), chief instructor (Kevin Larson), and two directors (two-year posts now **continued on Page 2**



Please welcome these new RFSC members!

Jake Ford, Roberts.  
**(September)**

Travis Holloway, River Falls.  
**(October)**

Eric & Jens Christensen, Beldenville; David & Kristina Olson, Beldenville; Micky & Ben Formanack, Hudson; Curtis Reierson, River Falls; Derek Gilbert, Hudson.

**(November)**

## Upcoming Club events

- Annual Membership meeting, 1 pm, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at the River Falls Moose Lodge. Member renewals and issuance of new gate keys begins at 11 am.
- Winter Trap League will kick-off on Sunday, Jan. 4th, weather permitting, and continue through March 15th.
- St.Croix Central trap team sign-up is set for Thursday, Jan. 22nd at the clubhouse.

### Newsletter

Comments, tips, criticisms, contributions, obits, and club – related questions are welcomed. Write, text or call Steve Dzubay at #715-821-7537 or steven-dzubay@gmail.com.

Thanks to Deb & Rich Cernohous for proof-reading help. RFSC's Facebook site offers updates between quarterly newsletters. For general club-related inquiries, write to RFSC@sbcglobal.net.



### Trap-team painters

Cyris, Lou, Callie & Eva from the St. Croix Central FFA Trap Shooting Club assisted on Clean-up Day by staining steps.

## Repaving ... continued from Page 1

ing in favor, one opposed (Nate Schultz), and three not responding, director Rachel Vogt announced at the September meeting.

Club manager Eric Swenson told President John Pietenpol he never received the e-mail message calling for the vote.

Schultz said in September he voted in opposition because of the sheer dollar figure and seemed quick expenditure of the entire sum gleaned from the recent lead reclamation. Also, he'd like to have seen a portion of the reclamation money spent on improving the clubhouse interior.

Vogt said AM&P expected to complete the job -- removal, grading and the first layer or "lift" -- in October. The contractor suggested the first layer be allowed to cure for at least a week before opening it to traffic.

During the construction period, club access and parking



Crews from AM&P, Spring Valley recycled the old pavement before regrading, packing, and laying down the first layer of bituminous in late October. Another layer will be added in 2026.

was via the west gate on the new property.

"I don't think anyone here wanted to spend the money, but it's only going to go up in price," said Pietenpol of the paving project.

After the job got underway, AM&P staff recommended regrading an area near the clubhouse main door in a way to channel run-off south along the building front versus off the northeast side. The change will allow AM&P to increase the overall thickness of the finished lot from 2.5 to three inches next spring, extending the life of the lot, Pie-

tenpol told directors at the November board meeting.

It was also suggested that the club's Dumpsters be set further west, so trucks won't damage bituminous when picking up refuse.

After the job was completed, Rangemaster Ed Gibb and member Rich Cernohous

painted caution yellow the "transition" area near the storage shed and main entrance to improve safety.

## Clean-up Day yields big gains

Forty-one people devoted their Saturday morning, Sept. 6th, to sprucing up RFSC clubhouse and grounds, Rangemaster Ed Gibb told board members the following Monday.

Accomplishments included brush removal along the 200- and 100-yard range lanes, outfield slope mowing, painting, flower bed clean-up, and clubhouse cleaning.

Gibb and co-chair Dan Herum extended a bode of thanks to the following participants — and anyone else who helped but might not have signed in: Michael Sprandel, Eric Swenson, Tim Hein, Syrigs Mikla, Joshua Lahony, Zoe and Waylon Wittstock, Jeff Hammer, Randy Goss, Dave Woltman, JP Eaton, Callie Heinbuch, Dan and Steve Bernard, Keith and Haylie Bauer, Michael Madson, Mike and Lou Goodnature, Jake Ford, Lon and Nathan Coffey, Tom Hauth, Kevin in Dorn, Josh Johnson; Eva, Andrew, Angie, Elsa, and Emma Dyb; Greg Falde, Liam Boyle, Jesse Iverson, Tim Teasdale, Brad Cran, Carson Foss, Nathan Nelson, Joann Herum and Teri Raiche.

## Annual meeting ...continued from Page 1

held by Nate Schultz and Dan Herum). Members can nominate themselves or any member in good standing.

Each of the incumbents said they'd be willing to serve again, if re-elected.

A postcard reminder about the annual meeting will be mailed to all voting members in early December.

At the November board meeting, President John Pietenpol said he'd received a request from a member who wished to renew by mail as he is out of the region when the annual meeting occurs and spends his summers at a cabin. He received immediate push-back from directors, citing the hassle of clarifying incomplete information, exchanging old- for a new key, unreliability of mail service, and added expense to the club. One director said if the club chose to offer the mail option, another board member should be added to the exclusive responsibility of managing membership renewals.

No action was taken.



The menagerie of 3-D targets now available to RFSC archers includes two whitetails, a bear, antelope, elk, moose, wild boar, Dall sheep, turkey, and a moose — plus six refreshed stationary targets. Eric Stern releases an arrow at one during one summer evening. Photo courtesy of Nick Larson.

## Playmakers behind refreshed RFSC archery range sketch future goals

Members Eric Stern and Nick Larson, who organized an archery league and expanded the range from traditional targets with a variety of lifelike 3D critters, say they're pleased with the strong participation and hope to expand the initiative next year.

"We had a successful first year for the RFSC Archery League with a total of 28 active shooters and over 40 people showing interest from both inside and outside of the club," Stern said in an e-mail exchange.

"We felt that this was a great turnout considering we put the

league together in under two months and had a small window for recruitment. The league drew six new members into the club," Stern said. "And it was fun to see shooters of all skill levels engaging in the league."

It was last April when Larson and Stern first approached directors with the idea of developing a three-dimensional archery course on club property.

The men said they'd work on a "second tier" sketch for a proposal that should include -- in the words of President John

Pietenpol -- "safety, cost, steps and scope..." for the board to consider.

Stern's interest stemmed from a desire to join an archery league but preferred the chance to do so within RFSC rather than having to join a new club. He pledged his time and energy to help make that happen.

"I think it would be good for the club to offer a more robust Archery offering. I know many of the guys I shoot and hunt with also enjoy archery and think it could help increase membership and potentially engagement from our current membership," Stern said.

The club later committed up to \$5,000 to replace aging conventional targets and stands, and to procure some new 3D targets to enhance members' shooting experiences. Stern estimates only about \$3,000 has been invested so far.

League participants are invited to shoot Tuesday thru Sunday -- whenever works best in their schedules -- versus identifying a specific league night. Mondays were reserved as a day when Stern and Larson reset the course to start a new week.

One evening this past summer, Stern noticed when he arrived to shoot trap, there were seven to 10 people on archery range preparing to shoot and trading stories about archery.

"I can't say that I ever recall seeing that kind of activity at the archery range prior to this.

I think it is safe to say creating the league has definitely engaged some of our members to utilize an overlooked resource offered by the club."

"We've tried to keep costs down as much as possible, but there is still room to grow as needed," he said.

The 3D targets are currently in storage in an attempt to keep them in good shape for next year, but conventional targets remain in place. League action will resume in the spring.

Among Stern's goals for the next year:

- Expand the league's duration to include two halves over the course of the spring/summer/early fall, like summer trap leagues.

- Adding more variety to the targets and course.

- Introduce Total Archery Challenge-style events mid-season and at end of season.

- Explore more usable space on club grounds for events

- Ramp up recruitment within and outside of the club.

- Raise funds for future archery-related objectives.

Anyone with questions or suggestions for future archery league opportunities is invited to share their thoughts with Stern via email at: [rfsarchery@gmail.com](mailto:rfsarchery@gmail.com).

## Board briefs

-- **DIRECTORS** affirmed a request in September by club manager Eric Swenson to utilize "trap kids" for scoring during Tuesday night Fall Trap League sessions. Last spring when participation was light, it was suggested the club could save money by asking volunteers and observers to score. Swenson argued that if the club has "money to dispose of deer carcasses, donate to a disabled hunt, and install lighting no one uses" it should be able to cover wages for a scorer. "Why come out (to shoot) when you have to do it yourself?" Ben Gaus and Ed Gibb agreed. President John Pietenpol said he had no objections to scheduling trap help for Tuesdays.

-- **THE LEAD RECLAMATION** firm Gibson-Ricketts recycled a total of 276,769 pounds of salvaged lead from the hillside beyond the trap range during July. After paying for \$2,300 worth of bags to contain the lead, the Club received a check for \$68,712.34 for its share of the recycling project, treasurer Ben Gaus reported in October. Gaus also noted an expenditure of \$8,000 to hydroseed and mulch the entire excavated area.

-- **BOARD MEMBERS** voted unanimously to authorize Gibb to spend up to \$750 to purchase a new Echo brush saw from Kinnic Power & Sport in September. The purchase was confirmed at October's meeting.

-- **JESE IVERSON**, with Heartland Outdoor Services, to consider hiring his crew to remove buckthorn from about a 1.5-acre portion of the grounds. Cost would be \$2,500-3,000. No action was taken at the September meeting. Reach Iverson at [heartlandoutdoorservices@gmail.com](mailto:heartlandoutdoorservices@gmail.com).

-- **RIVER FALLS COUNTY-LINERS** snowmobile club members will again take responsibility for snow removal at the club in exchange for use of the clubhouse for their meetings, Alan Gallistel said at October's meeting. Plowing will be done as soon as possible, but perhaps not immediately, Gallistel cautioned, as County Liners are volunteers too. "If anyone complains, hand 'em a shovel," Gaus quipped.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

PO Box 336

RIVER FALLS, WI 54022-0336



**SUCCESSFUL** hunters can safely dispose of carcasses and waste in a roll-off outside the RF Wastewater Treatment facility on South Apollo Rd. RFSC gave \$500 to help fund the project for 2025.

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

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NEEDS YOU!!!!**

