



# ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255  
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June 2020

T. Anderson, Editor



## President's Message

The New Normal

Some things continue to be on "hold" at the Chapter and in most parts of our lives. Hopefully we will get back to normal – SOON. But "soon" is a nebulous date. Now the optimistic date is September. It looks like all our summer programs are going on hiatus.

With meetings continuing on an "essential basis" only, you can still take advantage of the outdoors. It's probably one of the "safest" places you can go. The DNR has approved fishing, so try your hand at landing dinner.

I am still confident to say that if you or your family need help, reach out and your fellow members will step up. Don't hesitate. Put a note on [www.iwlar.org](http://www.iwlar.org) or email other members, our BOD members or me. We will be ready to help each other when and where we can. You can always reach me for help.

Take care of yourself and your family. Find "family" things to do. Be safe and stay away from others if you can. Get outside and enjoy nature,

Lee Hays

## Shooting Leagues Resume

As the Chapter ranges have been opened under the new supplemental range rules, we are now able to start up the shooting leagues under those rules. Please be sure to review those rules before attending as they are provided as reasonable steps to mitigate the hazards of the COVID-19. If you are not feeling well, please refrain from attending.

As we can only have 4 shooting positions available for each relay, we will be using a sign-up genius to better coordinate the relay times and positions. For each league, the sign-up links will be sent out to the [iwlar@googlegroups.com](mailto:iwlar@googlegroups.com) email prior to the match.

- Outdoor Pistol League will begin on Tuesday, June 2nd.
- Muzzleloader League will begin on Wednesday, June 3rd.
- Rifle League will begin on Wednesday, June 10th.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Cassell.

**THE JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM, WATCH THE GOOGLE GROUP FOR DETAILS.**

## The Rockville Email Group

The Rockville Chapter operates a members-only email list for announcements and discussions among members. The newsletter comes out once a month, so the email group is the only way to stay informed about important things that occur in between newsletters. You will be added to [iwlar@googlegroups.com](mailto:iwlar@googlegroups.com) automatically when you become a member unless you request not to be added. You can remove your address from the list anytime but we are hopeful that you will not do this because the list is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancellations.

## Suggestions for Email Etiquette

There have been periodic discussions about the volume and content of exchanges on the Chapter Email group. The primary purpose of the Google Group is to keep members informed for the latest developments. Chapter members have also used it to inform other members of new conservation or sporting information. On occasion, members have responded to update information previously disseminated.

Things have become more problematic when the discussions turn into expressions of opinion or criticisms of previously posted material. On occasion it has resulted in complaints about the level of acrimony and/or unwanted messages.

A good rule of thumb is to avoid responding to a particular message by emailing the entire group unless a vital bit of information needs to be updated. For example, if a Chapter wide email gives an incorrect date or location for an event, a chapter wide correction is appropriate. However, if, for example, a member wants to express an opinion on a previously disseminated message, it would be best if they respond only to the sender and any others the respondent knows would be interested.

### **IWLA-Rockville COVID-19 Range Operations**

The rifle and pistol ranges became available for limited use by Range Officer qualified members May 20. The archery range became available for limited use by members with Archery Approved, Range Approved, and Range Officer privileges May 20. The rifle and pistol ranges opened for limited use and staffed by Duty Range Officers from 1 - 5 PM Saturdays and Sundays beginning May 23.

COVID-19 is a recognized health hazard which has the ability to cause death and serious illness. The Rockville Chapter Officers and Board of Directors, based on the directives of Maryland and Montgomery County, authorized re-opening of Chapter ranges with limited operations. To address Maryland and Montgomery County requirements, supplemental range rules were approved that represent reasonable steps to mitigate the COVID-19 hazard. The supplemental range rules remain in effect until rescinded by the Chapter Officers and Board of Directors.

The Chapter Officers and Board of Directors authorized the Chapter Range Safety Committee to alter the supplemental range rules if necessary, based on operational experience, while remaining compliant with Maryland and Montgomery County requirements. Any supplemental range rule changes will be promptly communicated to the membership and posted on the chapter website. Members are responsible for understanding and abiding by the supplemental range rules at all times.

During open rifle and pistol range hours (1 - 5 PM Saturdays and Sundays) while the ranges are staffed by Duty Range Officers, members are required to reserve a time slot on-line to regulate range traffic and minimize congregating and waiting. Separate sign-up links are available for the rifle and pistol ranges. Members must have an on-line reservation to visit the ranges during open range hours. Duty Range Officers will instruct persons without reservations to depart the range areas.

The Supplemental Range Rules and sign-up links are available on the Chapter website ([www.iwlar.org](http://www.iwlar.org)) for the rifle and pistol ranges.

~Duval Crist~

### **Meeting Night Meals**

Volunteers are needed to cook throughout the year for General Membership Meetings when we resume in person events. Pick a month and get your six volunteer hours in one night. For more information contact Jeri Crist.

### **Chapter Newsletter Via Google Group Mail**

The Rockville Chapter Newsletter is available in PDF format sent to your email account. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email only contact David Schwartzman, and include your name so that we can confirm your membership.

### **Kayak Class Cancelled**

The Kayak class scheduled for June 6 has been canceled. We hope to offer it again next year in the first Saturday of June.

### **35 Years Ago**

From the Rockville Chapter Newsletters, April and May, 1985:

**Rifle and Pistol Ranges Closed:** The County Range Approval Committee has asked that numerous improvements be made. In addition, it is expected that they will insist that we initiate a program of having a qualified range officer present at any range before it is opened for use.

**Annual Auction Night:** After the regular meeting on May 3, Mark Hollis will be our main man on the gavel. You can bring up to five items to be auctioned and you get all the proceeds. You may, of course, choose to donate items for the benefit of the chapter.

**Rockville Crushed Stone Company:** They have contributed much to our chapter over the years, and now we'll be getting twenty truckloads of rock for the lake. Rip-rap to protect the dam and more to re-pack the road.

**Mini-Wads Win Winter League:** Jim Hill's "Mini-Wads" won the air-pistol league season, with Pete Grahn's "Potshots" coming in second. (*Ed note: Pete is still doing well and living the Good Life in West Virginia.*)

### **From the Apiary**

Several of our members are now busy maintaining seven hives at our orchard. We checked them this week and things are looking good. The bees are busily about collecting pollen and storing it for their (and hopefully our) future use. We'll keep you posted and let you know when we have some processed and ready for sale.

### **Continue to protect our waterways from plastic waste**

Reusable bags have become increasingly popular in recent years as consumers try to cut down on the plastic bags that show up in our streams, rivers and oceans. However, the novel coronavirus has given this trend pause. Research shows the coronavirus may remain viable for hours or days on a variety of surfaces, however fabrics have not been tested. To be cautious, the County Department of Environmental Protection recommends cleaning and/or disinfecting your reusable bags according to CDC guidelines. For more info, see <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/bag/residents.html>

### **Ike's Want Ads**

**To Place a non-commercial ad**, write to the Chapter's PO Box, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by third Friday of the month.

## WE HAVE A BABY!

Chapter member Dana Williams sent me an email on April 22 reporting seeing a large bird flapping its wings on the ground blind in the upper field. Miles Greenbaum checked it out the next day, saw a black vulture leaving the blind and took a photo of two eggs inside the blind. The vulture returned to the blind when Miles walked away. On May 10, Barry Nel took a photo of the chick (no clue as to what happened to the second egg).

Black vultures are not uncommon in this area but are more common around the Eastern Shore. They are protected by Federal and Maryland state law. They are beneficial scavengers and we've all seen them feasting on the roadside, cleaning up the mess car impacts with other animals can often leave. They prefer fresh carcasses but will eat decaying meat as well.

Prime real estate for nesting include tree hollows, abandoned buildings and, obviously, ground blinds! The monogamous pair will often reuse successful nesting sites for many years. Both the male and the female sit on the eggs to incubate them and when the chicks hatch, both participate in feeding them.

It's interesting that in this area in the summer, the black vultures practice urohydrosis. They pee on their legs to cool off! Another interesting action that is common to them is that when threatened, vultures vomit to lighten their body weight so they can escape more easily into flight. Vomiting also serves as a defense mechanism to deter predators that may be threatening the birds.

This is pretty cool...a group of black vultures is called a committee, a group in flight is called a kettle and a group feeding together at a carcass is called a wake!

## WE HAVE A BABY! (continued)

Some people believe that the vulture is a positive animal totem, representing birth and death as well as new beginnings and positive energy.



This Newsletter article is for fun informational purposes only! PLEASE LEAVE THE CHICK AND PARENTS ALONE!

*~Judy Danish~*