



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

JUNE, 2024

THIS ISSUE:

Twenty-six new members

Lots accomplished at Spring clean-up day

Etiquette rules tweaked to clarify safe practices

2024

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Keirka Kretzmann named 2024 Scholarship winner

Keirka Kretzmann, a River Falls High School graduating senior and member of the school's trap team, was chosen to receive the Club's \$1,000 academic scholarship this year.

Keirka is the daughter of Martin and Tabitha Kretzmann. She was chosen from among five applicants -- the largest pool the committee has had the pleasure of reviewing, according to chair Belinda Hopp. Other committee members include Dale Magnusson, Axel Bogdan, Stefanie Bogdan, Sue Phillips, and Jim Phillips.

Kretzmann plans to pursue a one-year welding certificate at Chippewa Valley Technical College.

"I've already completed their high school welding academy, which covers the first nine credits of the program. I'm excited to continue my education and look forward to moving to Eau Claire in the fall.

"I chose welding as my starter career path because I enjoy the hands-on aspect and the creative challenge of fabricating something from scratch. It allows me to combine my love

for problem-solving with my interest in precision work," she said.

In five years, I see myself continuing to pursue a career that allows me to work with my hands and utilize my growing skills in TIG welding, fabrica-



Keirka Kretzmann

tion, or auto mechanics. While I don't have a specific job in mind, my goal is to learn and become proficient in as many skills as possible.

"Ultimately, my aim is to be happy in my career and to have the opportunity to fix and create useful items that contribute positively to the world around me."

Kretzmann was spotlighted in the last newsletter for her work in constructing new shooting stands at the club. The project helped her toward achieving her Eagle Scout award.

She began trapshooting 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."

Her other activities in high school have included serving with volunteer staff for three years for a National Youth Leadership Training. Taught youth about leadership, team-

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First drawing from Gun Board' squares nears

RFSC visitors can help the club financially by purchasing a \$20 chance at a new Winchester shotgun or a Browning rifle. Drawing for the shotgun is July 2nd. Thereafter, the board will reset for the Browning X-Bolt 30.06 rifle drawing later this year. It features a satin walnut checkered stock, matte blue barrel and action, detachable rotary magazine, short throw bolt and adjustable trigger. The raffles coincide with the 20-week run of trap league. Squares are available for purchase at the bar.



Popularity of trapshooting boosts treasury, human capital

During the April meeting, board treasurer Ben Gaus received checks totaling nearly \$14,000 from director (and coach) Nate Schultz during the April meeting, covering membership- and shooting fees for 117 athlete members of the River Falls Shooting Sports program. Director and (St. Croix Central FFA team coach) Brad Cran added another \$2,800 to the total on behalf of their team.

Minutes earlier, Gaus had noted that he'd paid out about \$21,000 for the first of two shipments of clay birds received throughout the year.

The payments came on the heels of a brief exchange between Schultz and Club Manager Allen Gallistel about supplies.

A sizable portion of fees Schultz and Cran delivered represent the cost of youth shooting cards

purchased by students at the start of the season, Schultz explained.

At the May meeting, President John Pietenpol remarked about the enthusiastic participation in the recent club clean-up day by many trap-team parents -- many of whom aren't even club members.

Schultz mentioned that he and other team leaders typically prepare and serve pancakes and sausage to 30-40 team members each Saturday morning through the high school trap season.

Ahead of the April meeting, Schultz had added a poster to the bulletin board to share and affirm the core values expected of all program participants. Entitled "G.R.I.T.", the display emphasizes Gratitude, Resolve, Integrity & Tenacity.

The poster -- provided by Coach Belinda Hopp --

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Please welcome these new RFSC members!

Joanna and Lennie Jamison, Jim Hayes, Jesse Schneider, and Dwight Jordan. **(March)**

Ray Pepper, Ryan Thompson, John Conroy, Jordan Pearman, John Carpentier, Corey Flint, Travis Moore, Tony Linehan, and Mitch Frederick **(April)**

Christopher Manteuffel, Matt Forsythe, Craig Janssen, George Dinzeo, Travis Colson, Troy Johnson, Jay Kozinka, Robert Penny, Alana Feser, Ken Drevnick, Kevin McDaniels, and Frank Hickey. **(May)**

Upcoming



Members and guests are encouraged to get involved with the Fall fundraising banquet, set for 5 pm, Friday, Sept. 6th at the Kilkarney Hills Golf Course, 163 Radio Rd., River Falls.

Co-chair Brad Cran said the committee is looking for contributions of outdoor-related merchandise, services, or hand-crafted items for silent and live auctions. Donors will be publicly recognized.

Volunteers are also needed to help set-up and clerk the various contests. Reach Cran at btcran@frontiernet.net or at #651-343-7638.

Among guns on the raffle is a 75th Anniversary Ruger 10/22 with a maple stock.



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

Kretzmann ... from pg. 1

-work, first aid, and wilderness conservation. She chaired committees on the national level, including groups that planned national organization service days, and recruited and retained youth in the organization.

She is also the current chapter president with the River Falls Future Farmers of America (FFA), was previously treasurer. Kretzmann helped lead FFA involvement in community events such as Bacon Bash, Earth Day, and FFA Alumni Tractor, while promoting student participation in supervised agricultural experiences.

As a three-year member of River Falls Wildcat Shooting Sports, she earned the Sportsmanship Award, supported fellow athletes, and "showed up early and stayed late..." to clean-up.

She was also a founding member of the River Falls Fishing & Outdoor Club at the high school -- a new organization formed in 2023.

She serves as a volunteer AV Team member with Midcurrent Church in Hudson, working with adults to support the church and its evangelism.

Earlier in high school, she served a year as a Spielmannszug Minnesota German Karneval club Royal Ambassador, visiting communities across the state to advance German culture and networking.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants penned essays on the significance of the Second Amendment.

Kretzmann will receive the cash award when she satisfactorily completes her first term at CVTC.

The Far-Reaching Impact of Second Amendment Protections

By Keirka Kretzmann

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution stands as a pillar of individual rights and a cornerstone of American values. Its historical significance traces back to the very foundation of our nation, where the right to bear arms played a pivotal role in securing independence and shaping the American identity. Beyond its historical roots, the Second Amendment continues to resonate today as a symbol of individual freedoms, self-reliance, and personal responsibility.

One of the key aspects highlighting the importance of the Second Amendment is its role in shaping our historical identity. During the American Revolutionary War, armed militias composed of ordinary citizens played a crucial part in resisting British rule and securing liberty. The Minutemen, for instance, embody the spirit of citizen-soldiers who were ready at a minute's notice to defend their communities and ideals. As President and Founding Father Thomas Jefferson stated, "The beauty of the Second Amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it." This historical context underscores the belief that an armed citizenry is essential for safeguarding freedom and maintaining a check on governmental power.

The Second Amendment also serves as a symbol of individual freedoms and the spirit of self-reliance that is deeply ingrained in the American ethos. It recognizes the inherent right of individuals to protect themselves, their families, and their property. This empowerment fosters a sense of personal responsibility and autonomy, encouraging citizens to take an active role in their own safety and the defense of their loved ones.

However, with the empowerment of individuals also comes the responsibility to promote responsible gun ownership. President George Washington is quoted during a speech to Congress as saying, "A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined." The Second Amendment exists within the framework of a society that prioritizes public safety and societal well-being. I have come to value initiatives like the River Falls Sportsmen's Club, which actively supports our community through education, training, and advocacy for responsible firearm usage"

Moreover, the environmental aspect of gun ownership in small towns cannot be overlooked" Hunting, a traditional activity intertwined with the Second Amendment, contributes to wildlife conservation efforts and helps manage animal populations"

Responsible hunting practices promote environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the natural world, further highlighting the multifaceted impact of the Second Amendment.

In conclusion, the Second Amendment's importance to the Constitution cannot be overstated. It embodies historical identity, individual empowerment, personal responsibility, and the delicate balance between individual freedoms and public safety" By understanding its historical context, advocating for responsible gun ownership, and recognizing its impact on small-town communities, we can appreciate the enduring significance of the Second Amendment in shaping the American experience.

Board briefs

- **Directors approved** two small changes to "Basic Trap & Etiquette Rules" expected to be followed by club visitors. The first addresses shooters using semi-auto shotguns. Shell-catchers must be used to avoid ejecting hulls onto the shooter to your side. The second states: "Over-under shotguns are to be carried with barrels forward and pointed down, and stocks pointed rearward. Carrying the opposite results in the barrel potentially being pointed at others, even though the action is open."
- **A request** from James Vogt, a member of Boy Scout Troop 161 - Hammond/Roberts, for the club to contribute up to \$500 toward the purchase of a new flagpole and stone-bordered base on the grounds for Vogt's Eagle Scout project was approved May 13th. Vogt, the son of members Rachel and Jeff Vogt, also works as a trap helper at the club. James will fund-raise the additional money needed for the project.
- **Work on grading** and installation of a new service road onto the new property has been completed. The roughly \$8,700 project, completed by Total Excavating, included stripping and respreading topsoil from the drive and lot area, and creating a graveled walking path from the parking area to the existing cook shelter on the NW corner of the clubhouse.



Volunteers Jeff Vogt and Dave Thorsen tend a burn pile.

Clean-up Day was 'best ever'

More than eighty volunteers dodged showers on Saturday, April 27th to spruce-up club grounds and nearby roadsides.

A small army of men, women and kids attacked flowerbeds, spread mulch, edged walkways, trimmed trees, dug a trench, cleaned out the shed, picked up trash from more than two miles of roadside, and more.

"It was the best we've ever had," said Rangemaster Ed Gibb, who teamed with director Dan Herum to keep volunteers focused. "It was like ants. They just went to town!"

The turn-out included lots of non-members -- parents of River Falls and St. Croix Central trap team participants -- along with students themselves. Clean-up participants largely completed the club's seasonal punch list until the fall.

Members looking to fulfill their four volunteer hours can still help with bartending and concessions in the clubhouse on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays; help at the autumn fundraising banquet; volunteer at the fall clean-up day; or enterprise a project on their own.



Rogan Roquette and his dad, Brian, got after edging the trap lanes before 8 am.



Flower beds were weeded, raked, thinned and mulched around the clubhouse and trap area.



Volunteers fan out to cover a wide swath of ditch along Hwy. 65 during spring clean-up.

Youth trapshooting ... Continued from Page 1

carries the signatures of all team members and coaches "as our way of acknowledging and accepting this as our core," Schultz said.

The season for the River Falls Middle- and High School teams stretches seven weeks, including a "by" week during which practice is still held. Teams shoot Thursday- and Friday evenings, and Saturday mornings. In addition, the athletes must record six rounds of shooting before they are cleared to compete in conference shoots. Students have four weeks of practice ahead of conference shoots to ensure they achieve the requirement -- established by the Scholastic Clay Target Program, Schultz explained.

Each participant shoots about 20 rounds -- some even more -- during the season. Score sheets posted in the clubhouse track the number of rounds each athlete has completed.

SCC FFA Trap Team shoots through the USA Clay Target League Trap only. That league has both spring and fall seasons. Spring is the busier season in which students shoot for conference, then state competition (which includes everyone), he said. Some athletes also qualify for Nationals. The fall season is only conference competition.

The Spring season consists of a solid 10 weeks during which athletes shoot two rounds a week. SCC FFA has 28 athletes this Spring, who pay \$25 each for membership. Athletes are required to purchase two shooting cards at \$50 each for score weeks and required practices. That doesn't cover practice round cards that students may purchase. The St. Croix Central team shoots at 6 pm, Thursdays, and 3:15 pm on Sundays.



RF trap team members, from left, Jamison Schultz, Ian Houth and Blake Fredrickson labored to dig a trench that will enable a new security light off the clubhouse' south end.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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The RFSC provides a safe place for members to shoot and have fun and also hosts a variety of beginning and youth shooting programs. In 2019, over 2,200 hours were logged instructing youth 4-H shooters. Kids learned about safety and practiced disciplines of using a shotgun, small bore .22 pistol, muzzle-loader, .22 rifle, air rifle and archery (including wildlife ecology and hunting skills.)

Volunteers also taught Hunter Ed. classes, supervised trap programs for River Falls and St. Croix Central students, and oversaw RWVA Project Appleseed rifle marksmanship and Beginning Shooter courses. It's important to realize the role the RFSC plays the education of today's adults and tomorrow's leaders.

It's what we do. It's who we are.



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/