



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

JUNE, 2026

THIS ISSUE:

Clean-up day photos

New DIY trophy production underway

Scholarship recipient announced

2026

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Clear Lake lad named scholarship honoree

'I want my future kids and generations to be able to experience all the freedoms I have now...'

John Weir, a River Falls Trap Team member and home-schooled senior from the Clear Lake area, has been selected as recipient of the RFSC annual scholarship.

Weir, the son of Grant and Nicole Weir, is the youngest of four children.

He joined the Wildcat trap team when the family was living in the Beldenville area.

In his application, he noted his activities over the past four years include: leading at a Bible club (planning activities, leading worship and helping to run games); participating in monthly volunteer session at the Amery Food Pantry; and helping with Feed My Starving Children assembly sessions.

"As for sports, I have been shooting for River Falls since I was 12 and have thoroughly (enjoyed) shooting trap, skeet, and sporting clays over the years."

Weir plans to use the \$1,000 scholarship award to help him attend North Country Electrical Line & Heavy Equipment School in Escanaba, Mich. The Electrical Line Technician Program is a comprehensive 16-week, 640-hour course designed to train individuals in the field of line technology.



John Weir

In a letter notifying Weir of his selection, member Belinda Hopp offered a hearty congratulations.

"We are grateful for anyone who takes the time and effort to consider our country's founding documents to better understand the importance of why they were written, what they stand for and protect: our God-given liberties.

"Our goal in providing this gift to you is to ensure future generations understand the importance of the Constitution of the United States Bill of Rights and its role in a free society.

Our hope is that a deeper knowledge of our nation's founding documents will inspire and encourage the debate to uphold our nation's unique charter of "liberty for all".

The scholarship is payable upon satisfactory completion of a first term of study.

The Scholarship Committee is comprised of Jim and Sue Phillips, Dale Magnusson, Stefanie and Axel Bogdan. Hopp acts as facilitator.

(John's essay appears on Page 3)

Gun raffle offerings detailed; a perfect summer gift for someone?

Tickets for the 3 pm, Aug. 23rd gun raffle remain available in the clubhouse and from many members.

The drawing will be held at the clubhouse, but ticket-holders need not be present to win.

Only 500 tickets are being sold at \$25 each, with winners offered the option of claiming the respective gun, or taking the cash value.

As of May 11, some 180 tickets had been sold, but acting chair Ed Gibb asked board members for help with selling, advertising the opportunity, and aiding with organization of the event.

Guns offered on the raffle include:

- Browning Maxus II Sporting, Adj. Comb., walnut, 12-gauge (or \$1,300 cash)
- Marlin 1895 SBL, laminate/stainless: 45-70 (or \$900)
- Browning X-Bolt Speed camo/bronze: 6.8 Western (or \$800)
- Benelli M2, camo semi-auto: 20-gauge (or \$825)
- Ruger Super Red Hawk: SS 7.5-in w/scope rings: 44 Mag (or \$800)

Continued on Page 2

Please welcome these new RFSC members!

James & Krypton Meier, Dustin Plank, Zachary Kuechenmeister, and Todd Thurmes. **(March)**

Quinn Everson, Parker and Lea Quakenbush, Luke McNamara, Curtis Keies. **(April)**

Cade LaPerre, Craig Kusilek, Tom Schmidt; Travis, Eli and Isaac Wang, Jeanne Hayes, John Stoffel, Leo Draveling, and Zachary Otterson. **(May)**

Gun raffle ... continued from Page 1

- Ruger AR 556 MPR: 5.56 NATO (or \$800)
- Beretta A300 Ultima, camo, semi-auto: 12-gauge (or \$725)
- Smith & Wesson 686 Plus, SS, 7-shot 4-in barrel: 357 Mag (or \$725)
- Kimber 84M Hunter Pro, Desolve Camo SS: 6.5 Creedmoor (or \$600)
- Leopold BX-5 Santiam HD binoculars: 10 x 50 (or \$500)
- Ruger LC Carbine: 10mm (or \$500)
- Weatherby Vanguard, Badlands camo/bronze: 6.5 PRC (or \$500)
- Springfield Hellcat w/optics: 9mm (or \$500)

-- Springfield Hellcat w/optics: 9mm (or \$500)

The fundraising committee decided to purchase inventory from Scott McLeod over C&R Guns when both bids for firearms were examined in a "blind" process by committee members. Member Nick Larson has bowed out of leading this year's fundraiser, but agreed to orchestrate design and printing of the raffle tickets.

Members are encouraged to purchase tickets as this represents the only club fundraiser for the year.

Upcoming events

- RF Wildcat Trap team requested club use from 4-6:30 pm, Thursdays, 4-9 pm, Fridays, and 9-noon, Saturdays, beginning March 4, and continuing through July 10th. Director Nate Schultz said in March he expected 125-150 athletes to participate this season.
- St. Croix Central Trap team requested club use on Sunday afternoons, March 15-June 21.



Newsletter

Comments, tips, criticisms, contributions, obits, and club-related questions are welcomed. Write, text or call Steve Dzubay at #715-821-7537 or stevendzubay@gmail.com. Thanks to Deb & Rich Cernohous for proof-reading help. RFSC's Facebook site offers updates between quarterly newsletters. For club-related matters, write RFSC@sbcglobal.net.



Clean up day brings out 100-plus volunteers

A small army of 100-plus volunteers wielded rakes, shovels, saws, and muscle to spruce up club grounds on Saturday, April 25th. Clockwise, from right, Vivian Krause makes picnic table repairs; a gang cleared brush near the 200-yard benches; teens tossed old panels from the former Sylvester shed onto the fire; the wad cleanup team poses for Nate Schultz's camera; Asher Casey leans into sawing a downed tree; and Joel Heuschel mends the 25-yd fence.



The Importance of the Second Amendment

By John Weir

The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, ratified on Dec. 15, 1791, protect the rights for citizens to keep and bear arms. The founding fathers created the Second Amendment for multiple reasons; one of which is to enable citizens with the ability to protect themselves, their families, and their property if need be.

The Second Amendment was created to serve as a safeguard against tyranny. The Founding Fathers knew that disarming the people was the first step of tyranny. An armed populace was seen as a final check against oppression. By empowering citizens with the means to protect themselves reinforces the idea that ultimate authority rests with the people. While modern society has evolved, this principal still influences how many Americans interpret the amendment today.

As a young man and an American, the Second Amendment is more than just an amendment to me. It is our God given right to be able to defend and protect ourselves and our families. I want my future kids and generations to be able to experience all the freedoms I have now, such as clay shooting and hunting, along with all our other freedoms that the Second Amendment protects.

The Second Amendment is more than just a rule about firearms. It's a reflection of the values and concerns of early American society. It stands at the convergence of liberty, security, and government power. While its interpretation has evolved, its core purpose remains tied to protecting individual rights while navigating the responsibilities that come with them. The Second Amendment and the Constitution reinforces the principle that individual liberty is the cornerstone of a free society.



Reserve popper

Board member Dan Herum poses with a lightly used popcorn machine, recently donated to the club by the River Falls Public Works Dept. The unit will be a backup appliance for a popular feature at the RFSC clubhouse -- especially among RFHS and SCC trap team athletes -- including Grayson Ellefson, whose mom, Erica, serves as manager of River Falls' Public Works Dept. Herum replaced a \$6.53 switch in the machine to make it functional again.

Board briefs

-- **THE CLUBHOUSE** should soon be getting a new front door. The old one is rusty. A new model will feature a half-window (guarded by burglar bars) with color still to be determined. Research continues into resolving a minor roof leak. V-P Parker Heise showed the job to one roofing tradesman who examined the leaky area. His diagnosis is "popping" nails, which need to be carefully removed and replaced with longer screws ahead of sealing. A final solution is still being discussed.

-- **RANGEMASTER** Ed Gibb reported fences were replaced on the 25- and 50-yard ranges by a diligent volunteer.

-- **CHIEF INSTRUCTOR** Kevin Larson noted that preparations were underway for hosting the 4-H statewide shoot at the club in mid-May, followed by the launch of traditional Pierce County 4-H programming throughout the summer.

-- **A SECOND 'LIFT'** or layer of asphalt for the club's parking lot was to be scheduled for June or July. Directors had settled on scheduling the work on a Thursday to minimize disruptions for trap leagues and range use. Visitors would need to park in the vacant field for a few days to avoid damaging the new pavement -- depending on temperatures when it occurs. At the May meeting, it was decided to delay work until at least September to avoid vehicles damaging the pavement amid warmer weather. Plans to create gravel pads for Dumpsters off the south end of the clubhouse were also postponed after opinions were offered that they'd likely not make much of a difference in preventing damage by heavy trucks.

-- **IN MARCH**, directors approved the purchase of 20 pallets of clay pigeons and 80 cases of shotgun shells. The vendor offered a bonus pallet of birds for timely purchase. Road weight limits could impede the delivery, but it was expected to occur in early- to mid April. In a related discussion, it was decided not to offer the club as an intermediary to sell reloading supplies. Too much financial risk and hassle unless someone was willing to "own" the project. No one volunteered. At the May meeting, it was noted that the club is short of "green birds" (the odd colored pigeon inserted into each round, which upon breaking, the shooter receives a wooden nickel redeemable for a complimentary beverage.) Gibb said he'd check the new inventory for more, otherwise, some could be purchased -- or painted, someone quipped.

-- **MARGARET WILSON** donated \$1,500 to the club in memory of husband Ron, who died Sept. 15, 2024. Ron, a longtime professor of physics at UW-RF, was an active member and skilled trap-shooter. Directors eventually decided to apply the gift toward the purchase of LED lighting for the trap area. After several delays, installation is expected soon with a lift borrowed from Total Excavating.

— **FOLLOWING AN APRIL** demo of an XTool engraving device by member Jim Hayes, the board voted May 11 to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase a machine and laptop to run it. The kit will enable the club to produce the dozens of trophies needed each year for trap-team awards, as well as engrave other items like mugs. It's expected to pay for itself in two years.

-- **DIRECTOR** Rachel Vogt noted that pads for the on-site defibrillator are outdated and in need of replacement. Treasurer Ben Gaus offered to connect her with a vendor used by his company. Also, directors voted to donate \$540 toward sponsorship of three disabled hunters for an annual handicapped hunt in the area.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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Lighting purchased; 'Glow Clays' coming to RFSC this fall

Trap-shooters can look forward to a glow-in-the-dark gunning experience this fall when RFSC deploys a black light system that illuminates launched pigeons.

Directors voted unanimously in April to spend about \$1,400 to purchase two sets of lights that enable shooters to track flying birds through the darkness.

A date for the event hasn't been set yet, but directors Dan Herum and Ed Gibb, who have both experienced so-called "glow-shoots", said members will really enjoy it.



Other clubs who have the lights describe it as a "...neon-lit experience like no other" as "glowing clay targets streak across the sky!"

Herum and Gibb said the event will be in late fall so it's after sunset but still early enough to allow

multiple rounds ahead of a 9 pm closure. The two are hopeful an event can attract a crowd as a fun, end-of-season outing for families, company groups, or trap teams.

They don't yet have a name either. "Cosmic Clays" is a term copyrighted by Michigan Shooting Centers, but black-light trap shooting has been labeled "glow clays", "Glow-in-the-Dark Trap", "Night-Hawk shooting", "Glow-Bird Skeet", and more.

In the online discussion group, Reddit, shooters have lots of good things to say:

-- 'You will have a blast, I have seen great shooters humbled by how different it is shooting under the black lights. Take a pair of yellow lens glasses as it really helps with the glare from the bright led black lights.'

--'It's going to take some time to get used to depending on how much light they have out. My local club that does black light shoots don't light

up the field so you're essentially shooting in the dark and all you see is the clay. It can be disorienting the first round.'

--'Don't over think it! See the bird, break the bird. It's not easy, but it's so much fun. Just shoot instinctively. Have fun!'

-- 'I did this a couple of weeks ago at our local club. I will say it is a lot easier if you have a fiber optic bead on your gun to tell the relation between end of your barrel and target. I know your not suppose to look at a bead but found it hard tell where the end of the barrel was without the fiber optic bead. Just my experience. It was a blast!'

--' It's a great time. The clays are easier to see than in the daylight. I'm no expert but I don't think you need to change your technique at all.'

More information will be coming soon.