



AMES CHAPTER NEWS

The Izaak Walton League of America

One mile North of Skunk River Bridge
(2066 Stagecoach Rd)



Newsletter Editor: Jim Johnson
Staff Writer: Marv Scott

SEPTEMBER 2008
ISSUE NUMBER 151

The Ikes, Technology, our Lives and our Website

By Jim Johnson

In this day and age of continuing technological improvements information is exchanged so readily, so often, and in so many different ways. So as a conservation organization how does it effect us? Actually in a great number of ways...all beneficial to you as a member and to us as an organization. Lets face it, time is a constant...a constant that constantly seems to be in short supply. We are busier now...more so than ever. We have more interests, more events, more family activities, more more more. 10, 20 and 30 years ago we had more time to devote to a few interests, we weren't spread so thin. So how does one keep up with the things that are important to you...and how do the important thing (like the Ikes) keep up with you? Simple to answer this one...just look to www.amesikes.org. My goal was to create an effective tool for improved two way communication between the Ikes as a whole, and its membership.

I have spent several hours to update and enhance our website...why? It is one of the best ways to inform you as a member, and especially those who wish to become members, of what is happening here at our Ikes Chapter. By the way, did you know that the best source of information about new membership can be found on our website? No need to guess at current dues...it is listed on the form. Just tell your friends to print the form and mail it. Have you ever encountered a problem at the Ikes but didn't know who to contact? Does something need attention or repair? Go online and let us know at www.amesikes.org/contact.htm. As a user of the park you are our eyes and ears...now you can easily report trouble to us.

One of my priorities has been, and will continue to be...to inform the membership of Ikes activities. A paper copy that goes out to members is great, it is something you can take with you...read it on the bus, read it while waiting to see your doctor, share it with a friend...but that copy is sometimes not as timely as our needs may be. Events may change due to weather and are rescheduled, access to the park may be limited due to construction, any number of things can and do happen. The website calendar is a fantastic place to see what you have been missing, and what is coming so you don't miss out on it. New information is posted to the home page of the website to draw attention to it. Some recent suggestions have been to expand the 'toolbar' at the top of the page...now there are more pages that can be quickly accessed. The Membership section has had many queries as well, so here it is folks. Until the end of 2008 the USERID=**amesikes08**. The PASSWORD is the same as the code you use to gain access to the park. The new username and password will be part of the mailing package you get from membership for the 2009 year.

Additionally as editor of the newsletter, I can tell you I was surprised at the number of mailings we get back with bad addresses...we eat the additional postage (actually you do...it has to be paid by the Ames Chapter...which is you...the member). So I have created an easy form online to help our membership committee get updated information about your address, there is also a link to the IWLA National Website so you can update them as well. Go to <http://www.amesikes.org/memberupdate.htm> for more info.

The site has many benefits...with it in place we have a great tool to

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Ames Chapter E-mail

If you need to contact the newsletter editor please email
newsletter@amesikes.org

If you are a non-member seeking information about membership
please contact membership@amesikes.org. Thank you!

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IDPA update
 from Darin Van Ryswyk

Thanks to all of you for shooting with us. Here at the Ikes we host a number of shoots, a link is provided on the Outdoor Range page of our website at <http://www.amesikes.org/outdoorrange.htm> for the Central Iowa IDPA results. Please visit the website and check them out <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/CentrallowaIDPA/>. The next two Ames matches will be on **Sunday, October 12th at 9am and also Sunday, November 12th also at 9am**. Cost is \$10 per entry, and \$5 for each additional gun.

August Hunter Education Class
 by Marvin Scott

We had 41 students in our August Hunter Education class. That's a low number, but a larger number might have swamped us. We were about 3 to 5 people short for instructors. The evening sessions on Tuesday and Thursday need only about half a dozen instructors, but the Saturday session takes twenty or more. We had three new instructors, but we really could use more. The Saturday class needed some people to act as guides leading students from one part of the park to another. We also needed one or two more instructors at the safe gun handling station. Lots of Ikes have the needed skill. Can you load and unload a shotgun? The rifle range was one instructor short. We can find a job for any Ike who is willing and able to serve.

If interested contact Mike Meetz : (515) 382-2534 or Story County Conservation Office: (515) 232-2516. These classes are aimed at getting the next generation of hunters off to a good start. This is a major concern for the Ikes.

Thanks to the following people who worked on this class: Lee Van Brocklin, Larry Brown, Dan Burden, Dave Gelhaus, Darin Hinderaker, Mike Meetz, Christian Lien, Marvin Scott, Randy Lien, Nate Anderson, Dick McWilliams, Ed Moore, Terry Bureson, Art Fleener, Zach Bureson.

September/October Events Contacts

Membership & Board meeting / General questions Palmer Holden 515-233-1629	Outdoor Range / IDPA Darin Van Ryswyk 515-233-8521
Membership Information & New Memberships Gary Downs 515-292-5094	Ames Chapter Member only Skeet shoot Lee Van Brocklin 515-294-8301
Membership Info & Renewal Memberships John Gookin 515-733-2642	Hunter Education Registration Story County Conservation 515-232-2516

Website Member Login= amesikes08 PW= Current Gate Code



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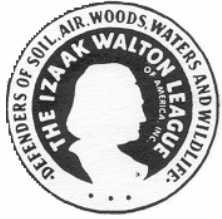
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Monthly Membership & Chapter Meeting

Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The next two meetings of the Ames Ikes will be **October 14th at 6:15pm** and **November 11th at 6:15pm** in the chapterhouse. Guests are welcome to attend with members. Members are also encouraged to attend, **especially** if you have concerns or questions to voice. Do not expect one board member or officer to be your voice.

Returned Newsletters "Temporarily Away" or "No Forwarding Address on File"

Please note if your newsletter is returned to us marked "temporarily away" or "no forwarding address on file" you will need to contact us to resume your newsletter subscription. Thank you. Please update your Member information with easy to use forms online at <http://www.amesikes.org/memberupdate.htm> and it's FREE!

Electronic Gate

When using the electronic gate for entry into the park, please remember to push the "**ENTER**" key after punching in the four-digit code. If the electronic gate does not open, the padlock gate uses the same code. **Since we no longer have a park resident the intercom at the gate will not be answered.**

Membership

As of the September board meeting we have **686** paid members. Any and all questions in regards to membership will now be available online at www.amesikes.org/becomeamember.htm.

Last month was the last month for a membership application on the back of our newsletter. The most accurate and up to date information can be found online. It is also the easiest method for new members to find out about our park, it's activities and contact our membership directors should they have a membership question. Renewing members that were members in 2007 and wish to renew in 2008 will still need to pay the renewal cost of \$92 (individual) or \$120 (family) **regardless** of when you renew in 2008. National enforces this rule—it is not a rule exclusively for our chapter; this rule applies to all chapters. Please send the completely filled out application form to the Ames Chapter at the appropriate address on the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the chapter or contact John Gookin or Gary Downs, Membership Directors.

JAX Shootout

By Marvin Scott

Imagine this, you walk into a gun store and see a modern muzzle loading rifle, just perfect for deer season. You look at it, heft it . . . nice! The clerk says, "Why don't you step over here and try a shot. We have targets set up. You can get the feel of firing it." This is not your typical experience, but this is the way the JAX Shootout works. Company representatives bring guns, ammo, targets, etc., and let potential buyers try them out. There are a couple of catches. You have to pay a dollar or so to shoot, and you cannot buy a gun on the spot.

At the JAX Shootout held on July 26, 2008, there was a wide variety of rifles and pistols available for shooters. This included a modern muzzle loading rifle with stainless steel barrel and synthetic stock, three types of cowboy revolvers, and a wide selection of modern handguns. For a dollar you could shoot the world's most powerful revolver (S&W 500 mag.) Those who do, get a real kick out of it.

There were shotguns on our trap and skeet range and archery equipment on the archery range. Next year you may want to attend and try before you buy.

We would like to sincerely thank all those at JAX for providing this opportunity to all who attended, we look forward to doing this again next year.



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