



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

OCTOBER 2008
ISSUE NUMBER 152

650+ members and No Volunteers?

By Jim Johnson

I was wondering what I was going to write about earlier this month. I do not mean the tone of this article to be cutting, my intent is not to offend, but invigorate and stimulate. It is in regards to a Park Clean-Up that was to take place in late September, several signs were posted...4 people had shown up. It's a tad perplexing for a collective group of greater than 650 current members to have only 4 people show up. I know, you've got 100 other things to do...but so do many of those whom are doing a majority of the work. It is quite amazing that only a few were able to do so much...all the overgrowth near the range has been cut down...among other areas. We thank those individuals for their efforts. The rest of us may need to be reminded that this is a volunteer organization, as such if when organized clean-ups are planned please make an effort to participate. If every member was able to give just one hour of time to the Ikes each year (please bring your kids or spouse too) there is much that could be accomplished for a park that we all use. I'm not sure how many of you hire someone to come and clean you own home, but I would expect it is very few. We should look at the Ikes in that same manor.

Ok...so you've had a second or two to think about it and recall, that indeed it has been some time since you were last out to help. Of course you are willing to help...but "*what do you want me to do? What projects are there? As a member without any equipment, tools, or materials...I'm left rather limited in my ability to help.*" When planned clean-up's are scheduled, many participants have what it takes to get the job done...sometimes it is just a helping hand with a pair of gloves that is in short supply.

As an example range clean-ups are scheduled regularly, usually every 1st Sunday of the month, but always posted on the website. That doesn't mean the range won't be shot up by then...it also doesn't mean that if the frames are shot up that they will get replaced any sooner. "*Well...no one else showed up for the range clean up*". Ok...so what did you do *while you were there?* Clean-ups scheduled, but without the help aren't really clean-ups then are they. Even if when you are on the grounds...be an example...at a minimum pick up after yourself. And if someone asks you or reminds you to do the same, be glad that we care enough about our park to keep it looking nice...if not better than when you arrived.

The park will always need work. Some examples are trimming, we always need help with trimming. Trees and brush need to be trimmed back, there is a lot of undergrowth that is encroaching on our road to the campgrounds and trap & skeet. Many picnic tables will need new planks for next year. People spending a little time on a project can have a tremendous impact on our park...most of our projects are like this.

If you have any comments, questions, stories or opinions...we have open ears. Please join us at our next board meeting or email us. I will be working on getting a list posted to the web so we can see what needs to be done...simply pick a project and jump in. Hesitant about doing something wrong? Contact us in advance and we can give direction or suggestions at volunteering@amesikes.org. Thank you in advance for your help, it is noticed and appreciated by all of us that enjoy our park.

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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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Ames Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America

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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/outdoorange.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, November 9th at 10am and also Sunday, December 14th also at 10am**. Cost is \$10 per entry, and \$5 for each additional gun.

Road Construction

So you may have noticed the construction in recent weeks going up the hill from the park entrance towards the chapterhouse. For many years the road has been of concern. With this recent road work drainage has been the primary concern. Once control of the water is well managed the road itself should not degrade as it has in the past. Tile was laid, drainage was properly routed, additional aggregate was added and graded to create a worthy entrance to the park. At our October board meeting, the board had made the decision to create a new account, separate from the general fund, to set aside money specifically for infrastructure. Concerns for the long term maintenance of the chapterhouse and road were the main items of concern. Individuals wishing to contribute funds specifically for road improvement are welcome. Please contact us if you wish to do so at www.amesikes.org/contactus.htm. We welcome discussion at our board meetings, which is open to all members, regarding this topic or any other concern.

A Friendly Reminder Regarding Alcohol

Well although it is nearly the end of the season it is not too late to remind our membership that at the current time we are still an alcohol free property. The applies to the entire park at all times. Those who do not wish to follow these rules and have alcohol in their possession will be asked to leave the premise immediately, further action (if needed) could result in permanent loss of privileges with the Ames Ikes chapter. No refund of dues will be given.

October/November 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 Tim Harwood 515-290-6945 |
| Membership Info & Renewal Memberships John Gookin 515-733-2642 | Chapterhouse Rental / General questions Palmer Holden 515-233-1629 |

Website Member Login= amesikes08 PW= Current Gate Code

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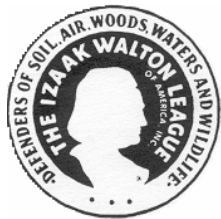
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Monthly Membership & Chapter Meeting

Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The next two meetings of the Ames Ikes will be **November 11th at 6:15pm** and **December 9th 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 October board meeting we have **697** paid members. Any and all questions in regards to membership will now be available online at www.amesikes.org/becomeamember.htm.

For 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.

Website Tips

By Jim Johnson

Some of you have recently emailed us thought the form available at www.amesikes.org/contactus.htm. I have responded to you, but some servers and some email accounts are not accepting my reply. Yahoo, MSN, AOL, etc have some pretty good spam filters, sometimes too good. Simply adding in “*@amesikes.org” to your 'safe' or 'accepted' email addresses will allow you to accept our responses.

Make the Ames Ikes website your homepage, then you can always quickly see what events are coming in the future. Or simply check it before you plan on coming out. On the front page is a weather link letting you know the temperature and other conditions for our area.

Send in your pictures of events if you would like them posted to our website photo gallery...send them to webmeister@amesikes.org and let me know some specifics about who is in the picture, what you are doing, and what the event was. Then view them at www.amesikes.org/photogallery.htm. We have some pictures on there now from a practice session at the indoor range with the Air Rifle Team.



AMES CHAPTER NEWS
 PO Box 148
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