

Newsletter October 2021



Guns 101

This month, rather than trying to write something of value to new gun owners, I am attaching a link to a video featuring a training class with Dave Spalding, dealing with defensive shooting in and around vehicles. Spalding is well known and respected in the firearms training industry, with several years in law enforcement, including as commander of a multi-agency drug introduction group. That service brought with it real-world experience of gun fights in and around vehicles, and with that he developed his “Vehicle Combatives” class to fill the void of training for a specific group of problems his team members faced. After retiring from Law Enforcement he started his training company and adapted his classes to be more suited to civilians and regular patrol officers. I was able to attend his Vehicle Combatives class in Kansas four years ago. Our class was about 2/3 law enforcement and 1/3 civilians, and it was without a doubt one of the best and most eye-opening training I have attended. Dave Spalding is a great instructor, very knowledgeable, and a lot of fun to boot.

Most of us spend a good deal of time in our vehicles; it cannot hurt to have an idea of what you may face if you ever find yourself trapped in your car. And as Dave Spalding likes to say, a V8 beats a 45 any day, if your vehicle still works, drive away.

Here it is, it's worth the 15 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/oMoJTFZWFNk>

News on the Newsletter

Unfortunately, our Newsletter Editor, Janine Dawley and her husband are moving out of the area, and in fact by the time this is posted they will likely already be gone. Janine has graciously offered to continue from afar until I can find someone to take over. I am sure her life will be hectic enough getting settled in their new home, so I hope to find a club member that will take over as soon as possible.



The content will be sent to you, and you will just need to organize it, check for mistakes, dress it up a bit, then send it out to the Board of Directors for review, then on to the Webmaster to be posted. I don't know what software you would need but I'm sure that Janine would be happy to explain all the details to you.

If you are interested in helping the Newsletter to survive, please contact me at davejiles@gmail.com

The new "public day" shed is coming along, the floor and wall frames are built and the rafters are in process. We have a club member that has offered to provide the roofing and I have procured all windows with the exception of one large sliding window for the front wall. At the time of this writing, we still need to do site preparation for the build site, and **we could really use some help**. Our build site slopes down toward the back so we have about a 10 inch drop over 8 feet. We will use either landscape timbers or large rock to create an area to fill with gravel that we can level out for a base for the shed. We need someone that is knowledgeable in this type of work that can create a site that will allow for drainage and provide a lasting base for the shed. If you can help, please contact me at davejiles@gmail.com

When do them kids,
go back to school?



BULLET POINTS

Gray Squirrels and other Dangerous Beast

The annual hunting seasons are in full swing, and as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, for many of us, this is the best time of the year. The cooler weather, the packing of gear, the sighting in of rifles and bows, and the planning for the annual trip to hunting camp, it's all part of the excitement.

Whether it be the challenge of a lone hunt, or the yearly gathering of old friends at a big "elk camp", it lifts the soul. Yet sometimes, it's the simple things that we find most rewarding.

I recently read an article in an outdoor magazine by a guy who lived on the East Coast and had grown up an avid squirrel hunter. He expressed how he had found more pleasure in the simple days of hunting squirrels, than in anything else. My

sentiments exactly, I grew up in Northern Wisconsin and squirrel hunting was always my favorite pastime.

Our deer season was always during Thanksgiving week and of course we looked forward to it, but November in Wisconsin can be a bit unpleasant, with temperatures somewhere between chilly, and “holy crap what am I doing out here”.

And then there is snow. We always appreciate a few inches to help see the deer’s movement patterns and for tracking wounded game.

But when there is snow up over your kneecaps, you don’t move around much, and you can bet the deer aren’t moving either.

The season for squirrel, and other small game started in early to mid-September. There was plenty of sunshine left, and I could get off the school bus, change clothes, tie my 22 bolt-action rifle across the handle bar of my old Schwinn, and peddle over to any one of many good squirrel woods in a short time. Just thinking about my late afternoon hunt is what got me through those fall afternoons in study hall, staring out the window at the falling leaves.

Squirrel hunting taught me how to be a hunter. I recall hunting with my Dad who taught me to be an ethical hunter, to make a clean shot, and to respect the animal I hunted. I learned how to move quietly, to sit and observe Mother Nature in all her glory and take advantage of the serenity you enjoy during a few hours in the woods.

I learned not only about the behavior of squirrels, but that of deer, bear, porcupines, raccoons, weasels, and all manner of birds. I learned patience, and how to differentiate the many sounds that you can hear as you sit quietly in the woods. I learned a lot about myself through introspection as I slowly transitioned from a little boy into a young man.

Ok, I know, that's a lot of deep thinking for a stupid farm kid with pimples and a 22 rifle, but my time in the woods, and on the lakes, had a lasting effect on what I became. We lived in a very rural area, and I was a boy with two older sisters and few options for social activity. If I had not had an active imagination I would have been bored to death and would have gone into adulthood frightened and overwhelmed by everything in the world. We were not a wealthy family and we produced most of our own food by gardening, raising a few cows, hunting and fishing, so I had the satisfaction of putting a lot of food on the table while doing the things I liked best. Fast forward to age 19, when I found myself getting off a plane in Southeast Asia and being issued my M-16 rifle, I was at least partially prepared for the change in my reality, and the ability to accept what was before me.

Squirrel hunting did all that for me, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. But seriously, give yourself, your sons and daughters, the simple pleasure of small game hunting. Teach them that appreciation of nature and self-reliance. Remember, you are providing your family with the healthiest protein they can eat, no steroids, no hormones, no added preservatives, just

good, fresh food. Times a wastin', get out those 22s and 410s and get ready for the opening of many of Colorado's small game seasons on October 1st.

