



**Fort Wayne Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America**

# News

January 2023 Issue



1922 2022

The Digital Magazine Of The Fort Wayne Chapter

A Century of Conservation Leadership

# the Fort Wayne Chapter

Page One

## EV BAKER—A MULTI TALENTED MEMBER OF FW CHAPTER

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### Cover Photo and Lead Article

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**We have many interesting members of the Fort Wayne Chapter and Ev Baker belongs somewhere near the top of the list. This interview delves into his hobby of machining a 1/2 scale model of a 1911 Colt 45 Automatic. In a future article, we will be sharing some of his NASA experiences as a participating member of the Apollo Space Shots.**

Today, we are interviewing Ev Baker, one of our chapter Range Safety Officers and a strong competitor in various chapter rifle and pistol competitions. Good morning, Ev, thanks for sitting down with us.

**JB: Ev, you are highly qualified as both a pistol and rifle shooter. To what do you attribute your success?**

**EB:** Thanks for your kind words. Success for me is to keep myself and everyone around me safe. If by success you mean high scores, I think concentration and attention to the basics is the key. A lot of people also stress practice.

**JB: How long have you been involved in Sports Shooting? Did you start shooting as a youngster?**

**EB:** I was not as interested in competition as much as just enjoying shooting. My father died when I was 6 so I didn't get to shoot other than BB guns till I was a teenager. I first shot a 22 Mossberg that my Stepdad gave me. I passed that rifle on to another family member years ago.

**JB: What was the first firearm that you called "your own"?**

**EB:** When I was about 7, I got ahold of a Smith & Wesson top break /spur trigger revolver in 38 caliber. Mom was going to take it away from me, but my Uncle snapped off the firing pin and convinced Mom to let me keep it.

**JB: Tell us a little about your experience as a competition shooter, before becoming affiliat-**



**ed with our IWLA Chapter.**

**EB:** No professional competition., but I was in a pistol league for several years at what used to be H&H firearms. Another league shoot was bench rest rifle at Fort Wayne Rifle & Revolver. There I shot a 6PPC in the custom class and also a .308 cal Remington in the factory class. I also tried Cowboy Action Shooting for a time.

**JB: What, pray tell, is a PPC.**

**EV:** The .22 PPC is a centerfire rifle cartridge developed in 1974 by Dr. Louis Palmisano and Ferris Pindell, primarily as a benchrest cartridge. The cartridge is based on the 5.6x39mm (.220 Russian) case which is a necked-down version of the 7.62x39mm Soviet military cartridge. Almost always, a custom rifle. Very accurate.

**JB: Have these been serious competitions for a high value prize or cash, or have they been more for bragging rights?**

**EB:** I did win a few bucks now and then when our pistol team at H&H finished "in the money" as often as not as our team often finished first

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or second place trophy. That was our reward. At the bench rest league, I was lucky enough to have placed 2<sup>nd</sup> on a semi regular basis. My Cowboy Action experience had a different path. Every Wednesday I would go to Jeff Herbst's farm after work. For me it was just to have fun shooting. Each week he would have me practice with specific instruction on targets he had set up for me. Unknown to me he also set up the stages on a local Cowboy Action Match competition. He finally talked me into entering a match. Turns out I did quite well that first match. I finished in the top 10 as I recall. Entering matches like that can be quite humbling because there are a lot of shooters that are a lot better.

**JB: I have been impressed with your coaching in our Big Brothers/Big Sisters Small Bore Rifle events. Tell me a little about your personal gratification that makes you want to assist in this manner.**

**EB:** I often think why would a young spit-n-vinegar youngster want to listen to an old curmudgeon like me? But I have discovered that if you don't overload a new shooter with instruction and focus on the basics, they will listen and usually we get a good result. The goals are to be safe and have fun. I have an empathy experiment: I am right handed and right eye dominate. When I put a rifle up to my right shoulder, it's like embracing an old friend. Very comfortable. If I put it to my left shoulder, everything is awkward. Which eye, where do I put my hands, how do I hold my posture, where should my feet be? These are the kind of uncertainties a new shooter is faced with. In addition – how loud is it going to be – how hard will it kick – when will it go off – etc. New shooters need a guide to quietly make sure that things are going well enough for them to have a safe and fun experience.

**JB: How about being a Range Safety Officer? What leads you to volunteering for this duty on our Rifle & Pistol Range?**

**EB:** With a busy schedule it is often hard to make time to go to the range. Being an RSO makes it a regular thing. I enjoy learning from other shooters and just like being around like-minded people. I often help shooters "get on the paper". My wife often told me to "take charge" if I was somewhere shooting at an informal event without an RSO and there was someone doing something dangerous. I decided to take the RSO training and make it "official".

**JB: How did you first become aware of our RSO program?**

**EB:** I enjoyed shooting and hiking the many trails at IWLA long before the RSO program started. For the range to re-open with the new safety improvements, they needed RSOs. So.... There you have it.

**JB: Do you have any one competition event that stands out in your mind? If so, tell us what makes it memorable.**

**EB:** I got my used 6PPC from an employee at SINCLAIR. They were VERY helpful at explaining how to prepare reloads to get it to shoot "good". I would take a target into the store, that I was proud of, and one employee in particular would take the time to evaluate the target to help me improve. After several trips I asked if there would ever be a time when I would bring in a target that would impress him. He said well.....No. The only way to impress him would be to beat him at a match. A short time later I did just that. Truth be told, he had a bad day and I had a particularly good day. But, a win is still a win.

**JB: What firearms have you shot in competition. Any favorites?**

**EB:** The 6PPC match rifle of course. It is a switch barrel gun. It has a "tired" barrel I use to fire-form new brass. The first time I was on the range fire-forming brass I was pleased and surprised to discover that I had fired the best group of my life - up to that point. I also have two match barrels for the 6PPC. For pistol league: I used a Python at first and then a Thompson-Center Contender in 45ACP caliber. Got lots of trophies with that combination. Cowboy Action requires 4 guns. Ruger-Vaquero and a Uberti-Scofield both in 45 Long Colt. A Uberti-'73 Winchester also in 45 Long Colt. And, a 12Ga Winchester '97 pump (made in 1930).

My favorite gun is usually the one I am shooting at the time.



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I have a SIG Sauer P365 in 9mm with a red dot sight that runs really well on the steel plates. The pistol I almost always bring to the range is a Ruger 22/45 (in 22RF).

**JB: Do you compete with firearms especially built for competition, or do you use “over-the-counter” purchased firearms that are mass produced?**

**EB:** The only custom gun I have is the 6PPC.

**JB: Do you have a machine shop?**

**EB:** I have a bench model milling machine and a South Bend 9” lathe that I think is older than I am. I quite often have some metal being worked on almost every day. I keep several projects going at the same time. For me, it works best if I step away from a project for a while and let the ideas marinate (so to speak) in my head to come up with the best course of action.



**JB: You have another hobby that will really be of interest, and led to the cover photo of the January issue of the FW Chapter NEWS, and that is a 1/2 scale model 1911 pistol. What led you to taking this project on?**

**EB:** I am a great fan of the genius of John M. Browning. I read that he might spend hours at his work bench manipulating a two or three part assembly to discover how he could replace it with a single part. I think the best way to understand the functions of a part is to make one that works in the gun.

**JB: Do you have classic training in the use of close toler-**

**ance milling machines?**

**EB:** No. I did take machine shop in high school. And, I would spend coffee break time talking to the machinists at the various companies I worked at over the years.

**JB: What about the equipment that you used in making your scale model 1911? Mechanized, by hand, or what?**

**EB:** Some miniature makers use a 3D pantograph. They often work in 1/3 scale or smaller. I used a bench top milling machine and SOUTH BEND lathe to make my 1/2 scale. Most of the machining was done in the same fashion as it was done in 1911. The actual machine cut might only take



a few minutes. But, hours may have been spent making a cutting tool to complete the cut. As the assembly gets closer to being complete, I found myself being much more careful to not make a mistake. I did discard one slide. Other than that, not much scrapping of parts. There is a joke/flip answer I give when asked “how did you make that?” It’s easy I say, just remove all the metal that should not be there. Note: in addition to the mill and lathe I used files and a DREMEL tool.

Many makers do several copies at once. Creating the tooling is what takes the most time. I do not have CNC but for those that do, many units can be cranked out after the software/programs are generated. However, there is a downside to using more modern fabrication techniques. The tooling marks differ from the original. This may be subtle but it makes a difference on the finished pistol. The true test is to create a scale model that looks the same in a photograph (where the scale is not obvious) as the original.

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**JB: I would say that you were successful.**

**EB:** Thanks. The goal is to take the quarter out of this picture, and loose perspective of the size of the miniaturized

er is being produced exactly like you created it?

**JB: How many man hours would you estimate that you invested in this single project?**

**EB:** I did not keep track. But, I would spend a couple hours after work 2 or 3 nights a week for nearly a year.

**JB: Had you ever attempted anything like this before taking on this project?**

**EB:** In college I acquired an original 54 caliber flint lock pistol barrel, a reproduction lock from DIXIE GUN WORKS, and a mahogany wood blank from a grain elevator. I made a handsome (my words) flint lock pistol. Over the years I have made many gun parts when replacements could not be found.

**JB: I understand that you were the subject of another interview that resulted in an article in a specialty publication on scale modeling of firearms. Am I right about that, and if so, tell us a little about that.**

**EB:** I joined the Miniature Arms Society shortly after I started the project. They were in the process of collecting materials for what they were calling "THE BOOK". In 1999 they finally published a book entitled "The Art of Miniature Firearms – Centuries of Craftsmanship". My ½ scale model 1911 is featured on pages 110 and 111. They have my name as Lloyd Baker. At first I was disappointed that they got my name wrong. Now I have decided I like the anonymity.

**JB: Is there a market for selling a firearm like the one that you made?**

**EB:** A century or two back, an apprenticeship was required to become a gunsmith. To

"graduate" it was common for the student to make a firearm of the period from scratch. In many cases a ½ scale was made to insure that the student made all the parts himself. Also, some firearms are quite rare and a scale version is created for a collector that can't afford the original. Over the centuries, top gunsmiths would make scale model firearms for presentation to Kings and Heads of State. These presentation pieces are usually quite valuable. There is collector interest in any scale model firearm but the value is determined by quality and the faithfulness to the full scale version.

Often when I show my ½ scale to a non-gun person, they

piece.

**JB: What led you to selecting the venerable 1911 as your choice to fabricate?**

**EB:** Browning created several gun designs each year of his productive career. Rifles, pistols, shot guns, and machine guns. Other than the M2HB, the 1911 is arguably one of the most long lived designs ever created. It has been in continuous production for over 100 years. And, still today, several manufactures are making 1911s with their parts nearly identical to the original. Have you ever thought what it would be like to invent a product that 100 years lat-



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will say “that’s cute, will you make me one?” On the other hand, if it’s a gun person and they are familiar with the parts inside a 45 AUTO, they show much more interest. A practicing machinist often shows the most interest.

A question often comes up as to will it fire. The answer is yes. But, it is a true ½ scale. To get it to fire, half scale center fire ammo must be fabricated. A particular problem would be to make a ½ scale primers with enough sensitivity to go off with the strike of the small hammer. Being a ½ scale means the volume (mass) is ½ x ½ x ½ or 1/8 the mass of the full size. Now, if we get all that worked out, what powder should we use and how much. Bullseye is the fastest powder available. Could it provide enough energy to work the slide? To work out the answers to these questions I think I could use the assistance of John M. Browning. That brings me back around to the genius of the greatest firearms designer of all time John Moses Browning.

**JB: What would you say is most important for anyone considering taking on scaling down a firearm? What should they consider before starting?**

**EB:** I made my own drawings for each part. (In high school I had a part time job as a draftsman.) Some cutting tools require silver soldering – So, the ability to gas weld is important. I had to make my own checkering tools. Wood checkering and metal checkering skills are necessary. The metal checkering on the hammer, for example, is 52 lines per inch. I had to use a microscope to see what I was doing. The sear had to be made very hard. After machining it was quench hardened using a CASEINITE process.

This process adds carbon to the surface but since the part was so small it pretty much hardened it thru and thru. In the old days it was common practice to look at the sparks coming off the grinding wheel to determine the carbon content of the steel. Blacksmiths were the technology wizards in the past. Modern steels are far more complicated. There are several springs in a 1911. Knowledge about metallurgy is helpful. Come to think of it, a few years back I did take a gunsmithing course and a welding class. The making of a scale firearm was and is an indication that the student has mastered the skills necessary to be a gunsmith. There are a lot of less complicated firearms that may be a good starter project.

**JB: Ev, this story can’t end without your telling us a little about your career.**

**EB:** My story is that I graduated Purdue as an electrical en-



gineer. A week later, I got married. A week after that we moved to Coco Beach Florida and I went to work for The Boeing Company. I worked on the activation of the Saturn launch pads 39A & 39B. I was involved in Apollo III through VIII. I was the prime firing room console operator on the water system during the launch of Apollo VIII.

I left Boeing to become a design engineer at Texas Instruments in Dallas. After Dallas we moved to Grand Rapids Michigan and I went to work at Lear Siegler. Along the way I developed a specialty in designing high efficiency switching power supplies. After Lear I spent 25 years at Magnavox/Raytheon in Fort Wayne. Now I am retired and life could not be better.

**JB: Ev, it has been a pleasure chatting with you today. Is there anything that you want to leave our readers with, that we didn’t discuss today, as it relates to Sports Shooting?**

**EB:** For me, the happiest place on earth is at the NRA convention with over an acre of vendors. If you’re a member, you get in free. I go from booth to booth and have an unbelievably good time.

What a great place to be. And another great place to be is on the Rifle and Pistol Range of the Fort Wayne Chapter of Izaak Walton. Great people and great shooting!

**JB: Thank you Ev, it’s always a pleasure.**

**EDITORS NOTE: We are planning an article on Ev’s Apollo years in a later issue in 2023. Don’t miss it!**

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## FROM MY DESK

PATRICK J. WHITE, President—FW Chapter IWLA

The new year is upon us and it's time for some reflection on 2022.

The Fort Wayne Chapter of Izaak Walton had a very unique year, both positive and not so positive. But rather than focusing on the bad, I'd rather focus on the highlights of 2022 in no particular order:

Ms. Bre Butler, one of the most decorated rifle marksmen in America, daughter of Chris and Angie Butler selected our Chapter to announce the Division 1 college of her choice this past fall. A large group of friends and family gathered at our clubhouse and watched as she revealed her selection. While numerous major universities attempted to recruit her, only three (3) schools remained as finalists: West Virginia, University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Georgia Southern. As the cameras from WANE-TV NewsChannel 15 rolled, she opened a wrapped box containing the ball cap of her selected choice. Bre was awarded a full 4-year scholarship to Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia.

In early 2022, the Board of Directors (BOD) was approached by the local Boy Scout Council asking if a large Jamboree could be held on our grounds in late Spring. With little discussion, the BOD voted unanimously to grant the scout's request. Later that spring nearly 150 scouts from various troops in northeast Indiana descended on our grounds for a weekend jamboree. Troops were very organized and took meticulous care of the grounds of our trap and skeet ranges during their weekend. Even though their encampments featured campfires and cooking stations, our grounds were immaculate after they departed at the end of their encampment Sunday morning. To say this event was a success is an understatement. Our thanks to James Ramsey (A Scout leader himself) for being the project manager for this event.

Our Rifle & Pistol Range was upgraded in two ways in 2022. First a new 10'X12" storage shed was obtained thanks to the donations of members Mike Sienk, Ron & Tim Hessert, Deb Warnick and Jay Butler. The new storage facility resulted in a major clean-up of the range to improve its appearance for both members and guests as well as impressing potential new members. And would be remiss not to mention Mike Sienk's generous donation for the new flagpole adorning the entrance to our Chapter

The second upgrade was the naming of Karla Wyss to be the Range Manager and Deb Warnick as Scheduling Officer. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time a woman has been selected to run our range. Both she and Deb have dedicated many hours to improve the operations and scheduling for more than forty (40) volunteer Range Safety Officers (RSO) who ensure the safety of both members and guests five-days a week. Both Karla and Deb were named to the Board of Directors as well. I hope both will remain in their posts for the foreseeable future.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Jay Butler, our Chapter produces one of the premier monthly newsletters nationwide. While not a traditional newsletter, Jay is Editor-In-Chief of a full color Digital News Magazine which is circulated to our members and countless individuals nationwide every month. It's truly one-of-a-kind among publication in Izaak Walton chapters.

Those are but a few highlights that made our Chapter one of the finest in Indiana and perhaps the nation. I'm honored to be a member of Izaak Walton League-Fort Wayne, and you should be also. We are a collaboration of individuals who make this Chapter one of the best in America.



President—Fort Wayne Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America

## BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Shooting at our Range is enjoyable because it's outdoors. It's Mother Nature at its best. Whether you're shooting rifle or pistol, being outside adds a great dimension to the shooting experience. However, in the winter, many shooters hunker down in their homes or visit an indoor range to hone their skills because shooting in the cold and snow is different than summertime shooting.

Sadly, when you go to an indoor facility, you're relegated to shooting bland paper targets. That was until AAA Sporting Goods & Guns in Laotto, Indiana (**AAA is one of our advertisers. See their Ad on Page Seven**), installed a computer system at their new indoor range specializing in "Computer Targeting" with two of their 8-lane facility dedicated solely to this unique shooting experience.

Simply pick your target from a vast array on the iPad screen located in your shooting lane, and the computer will project it down-range at X-yards. The computer-generated targets are either stationary or moving, depending on your selection. And to make the experience even more enjoyable, the computer tracks your shot locations and displays it directly on the iPad. And to make it even more enjoyable, at the end of your session, you can have your scores emailed directly to you.

Rangemaster Karla Wyss and her RSO husband Mar, visited AAA and tried it for themselves, and both were amazed and surprised how fun it was. "I normally shoot outdoors" noted Karla "but this is fun and perfect for winter and bad weather shooting." Plus, shooters utilize their own pistols and ammunition as well.

The cost is \$10 for 30-minutes or \$15 for an hour of shooting. You can add an additional shooter on your lane for \$8 more so a couple can enjoy the same experience. There's also a small additional charge for the paper on which the computer image is projected. The amount depends upon how often you want the background paper changed, but it's usually around \$1 or so.



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## Winter Euchre

Join us for euchre at the Fort Wayne Chapterhouse on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on January 18, 2023. The format will be individual players so come alone or bring your friends and neighbors as guests. Chapter membership is not required. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Sign-in begins at 6:30, play begins at 7:00. Soft drinks and chips will be available for purchase or bring your own choice. What a great way to spend a winter evening! Hope to see you there!

If you would like more information please contact Carl Ehinger at: crehinger@gmail.com or 260-619-3242.

**When was the last time you participated in a rousing Euchre Game with friends? What better way is there to spend a cold Winter evening? Come on out to the Chapter located at 17100 Griffith Road for an enjoyable evening of the Hoosier game of choice—Euchre!**

## REMINDER!

Just a reminder. Our Members holding a Range Pass to our Rifle & Pistol Range are required to READ and SIGN our 2023 Range Rules. Anticipate being asked to do that on your first time visit to the range with your new 2023 membership card.

Our RSO's will have a new edition ready for your signature on your first visit to the Range beginning January 2, 2023.

**Karla Wyss—Range Manager**

## Advertisers Corner

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# the Fort Wayne Chapter

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## THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN DEC.

1. Jeffery & Tamara Loucks
2. Joseph & Tegan Ferguson
3. Craig Knott
4. Steven Clossin
5. Shaun & Stephanie Beiswanger
6. Rand & Carla Martz
7. Jared & Jenny Newby
8. Todd & Lisa Birch
9. Steve & Jennifer Rose

10. Tim Sommers
11. Chad & Angela Flickinger
12. David Atkinson
13. Philip Gibson
14. Quentin & Elaine Kruse
15. Brian & Susie Hoskins

**26 NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER**

**SOUND  
OFF!**



Tell us your thoughts about our "**FW Chapter NEWS**" or any other Chapter related topic.

Email: [jaybutler1940@gmail.com](mailto:jaybutler1940@gmail.com)

Jay Butler  
Managing  
Editor

**"If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed."  
-Benjamin Franklin (1731)**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS MAGAZINE, SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO [crehinger@gmail.com](mailto:crehinger@gmail.com)**

### REMINDER

Your Grace Period For Use Of Your 2022 Range Privledge Card Is About To Run Out.

**SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL FORM AND CHECK NOW!**

## MOST POPULAR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

- Year after year, being healthier is consistently the most popular New Year's resolution, whether that's eating healthier, exercising more, or losing weight.
- Saving money is the next most popular resolution.

# the Fort Wayne Chapter

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## DID YOU KNOW...

### “We Are Not Just A Sports Shooting Chapter!”

Your Chapter Board of Directors starts each board meeting with this pledge: *“To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it. I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.”*

## KEY CONTACTS

### Rifle & Pistol Range Manager

Karla Wyss

Email: marw4@frontier.com

### Trap & Skeet Range Manager

John Kurtz

Email: jdkurtz66@gmail.com

### Archery Manager

Rick Thompson

Email: rlthompson76@yahoo.com

### Chief Range Safety Officer

James Ramsey

Email: jr7@aol.com

### RSO Scheduling Officer

Deb Warnick

Dhow59yahoo.com

### Site Manager

Zack Walter

Email: zwalter6@gmail.com

### Chapter Information

Jay Butler

jaybutler1940@gmail.com

## Executive Board

### Patrick J. White—President

Email: ftwayne@hotmail.com

### John Kurtz—Vice President

Email: jdkurtz66@gmail.com

### Jay L. Butler—Executive Secretary

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com

### Carl Ehinger—Treasurer & Mbr. V.P.

Email: crehinger@gmail.com

## Our Ranges

### RIFLE & PISTOL

DST: 10:00AM—5:00PM

Open: Mon-Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun

### TRAP & SKEET

Sundays 9:00AM—1:00PM All Year

## CO-EDITORS: “the FW CHAPTER NEWS”

Jay Butler— Managing Editor

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com

Patrick White—Photo Journalist Editor

ftwayne@hotmail.com

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Izaak Walton League of America**

## News



1922 2022

*A Century of Conservation Leadership*

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(12 Issues of Chapter NEWS Magazine)**

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## 2023 Membership Renewal Form

Please fill in the following information and determine the appropriate remittal amount from the table below. Place this completed form and your payment into an envelope and mail to: Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA, c/o Carl Ehinger, 2709 Bearberry Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to purchase range privileges—add \$40.00 R/P: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any changes from your previous membership (type, address, names, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Current dues distribution

Type	National	Ind/Division	FW Chapter	Total Dues	% to Chapter	Range Fee
Family	\$75.00	\$12.00	\$53.00	\$140.00	38%	\$40.00*
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$6.00	\$53.00	\$134.00	39.5%	\$40.00*
Individual	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$42.00	\$100.00	42%	\$40.00*
Senior	\$50.00	\$6.00	\$34.00	\$90.00	38%	\$40.00*
Student	\$25.00	\$6.00	\$29.00	\$60.00	48%	\$40.00*

\* to use the rifle/pistol ranges you must purchase range privileges. **If you choose to purchase range privileges, please remit the "Total Dues" amount plus the \$40.00 range fee.** Range fees are wholly retained by the Chapter and are necessary to help offset the operating and maintenance expenses that are specifically associated with the ranges.

# Thank you for your continued support of our Fort Wayne Chapter