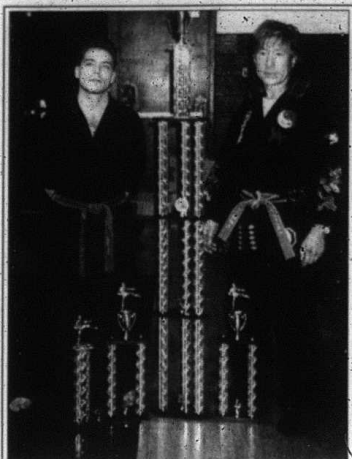




On March 24, 2001 at the National Shaolin Karate Tournament in Lexington the Grand Champion trophy was presented to Eric Bullock by Grandmaster Sin The'. Eric received this honor after earning the most points in the entire blackbelt competition against competitors from all over the United States. He received first place in weapons forms by performing the three sectional staff, first place in empty hands forms by performing Ground Dragon and second place in point sparring. Eric has been in this style of martial arts for seventeen years. He holds the rank of fourth degree blackbelt and is the instructor of the Mt. Vernon Shaolin Karate Club. He is shown here, at left, receiving his trophies from Grandmaster Sin The'. Eric is the son of Donna June Bullock and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Bullock, Jr., all of Mt. Vernon.



On March 25, 2001 in Lexington, two students from Eric Bullock's Mt. Vernon Shaolin Karate Club tested before Grandmaster Sin The' and his committee of high ranking blackbelts. Shown here with their instructor Eric Bullock, left, are Brandon Abney, middle, who tested and received his second degree blackbelt and Joe Harmon who tested and received his third degree blackbelt.

Turkey season outlook

In 1978, Kentucky turkey hunters harvested only 44 birds. Most of this harvest came from remote areas of the Daniel Boone National Forest in eastern Kentucky and the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in western Kentucky.

Back then, outdoors enthusiasts could go their entire lives without seeing one of these regal birds in the wild in Kentucky.

Today, it's a much different story. They live all over the state in areas that would have been inconceivable just a few years ago.

Wild turkeys have even been observed perched on a fence, far away from any trees, in a spacious paddock on one of central Kentucky's world famous horse farms.

"It's good all over," exclaimed George Wright, turkey program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR).

Hard work and good management by agency personnel is primarily responsible for the expansion of wild turkey numbers in Kentucky.

A cold winter this year should place the spring turkey season at the peak of the nesting season. The mild winters of previous years caused the peak of turkey mating to be a little ahead of the hunting season. That, in turn, caused harvest levels to be slightly below expectations. "This year, however," the timing looks good," Wright said.

This year hunters will have the largest turkey flock in modern history to hunt. There are more than 160,000 turkeys now in Kentucky. There were 18,607 turkeys checked in last year with a hunter success rate of 29 percent. An estimated 65,000 hunters participated in the 2000 spring turkey season and that number is expected to grow.

The flock has grown to the point where no area of the state is markedly better than any other area. "Hunt anywhere you can get permission," Wright said, "because our distribution is good over all the areas with decent habitat." Traditionally, the top turkey counties in terms of harvested birds are in the lower Green River Watershed such as Ohio, Muhlenberg, Butler and Hopkins.

However, central Kentucky counties like Owen, Pendleton, Hardin, Bracken, Adair and Nelson are really coming on as turkey producers. "Hunters are capitalizing in more and more areas each season," Wright explained. "There's no secrets about turkeys."

The Kentucky spring turkey season runs April 14 through May 4 statewide with a season limit of two male turkeys or turkeys with visible beards. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Only one gobbler may be taken in any one day.

"Let's all be very careful, too," Wright warned. "It could be more crowded than normal in the woods. Be safe and respect other hunters."

Youth hunters should also be aware that on May 5, this year, those under 16 will be able to turkey hunt as long as they are accompanied by an adult if using a shotgun.

The new Youth Turkey Day is designed to give younger hunters an extra opportunity without having to compete with adults. Youth hunters

must comply with all other regulations and limits governing turkey hunting during this one-day hunt.

Lastly, all turkeys taken in Kentucky must be appropriately tagged and reported through the state telecheck system by calling toll-free 1-877-245-4263 on the day the bird is taken.

Hunters not issued tags when they purchase a turkey permit, or hunters not required to have a permit, must make their own carcass tags to use while hunting.

With a great flock and good weather, this year should offer the best chance at a turkey since Simon Kenton hunted them.

Sportsman's License Outdoors enthusiasts have a way to save time and money this year by purchasing a Sportsman's license. The \$40 Sportsman's license seems a little steep at first, but includes a hunting and fishing combination license, spring turkey permit, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit and a trout stamp. These licenses and permits bought separately run \$87.50. The only things not covered are the federal waterfowl and migratory bird permits and fall turkey permits. Persons who purchase a Sportsman's license do not receive carcass tags for turkey and deer, and are required to make their own while hunting.

Quota elk hunt applications are available until May 31, 2001 for Kentucky's first elk hunt. They are not as easy as they once were. In the first week of the season for the Ump Modifieds 28 machines posted qualifying times on Richmond's 3/10 clay oval, with not less than five cars within 3 of the track record. Jimmy Robinson (current record holder) led the charge and posted fast time to earn the pole for the feature. In the feature Robinson took command at the green with Rookie Keith Denny close behind, on lap eight Denny took over the lead and looked strong for four laps until reared problems sent him to the pits. All the while Jared Northern was working his way toward the front. Robinson once again took the lead with Northern in two. Robinson would lead until the white flag was in the flagman's hand, Northern slipped by Robinson for the lead. He would lead the last two laps for his first feature win. Northern started in the 11th spot. He was followed by Robinson and from the ninth spot in third was Gary Ward.

Richmond Raceway news

For the second week in a row summer like weather covered the area with lumps into the 80's, that combined with ninety race cars competing in three classes made for a sizzling good show for fans and races alike at "The Action Track".

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The Quick Six was won by Brian Seales. Heats went to Mickey Kahlen, Anthony Reams and Bunch Shay. Robbie Mattingly won the Last Chance event.

In the Bomber Division, David Freeman was hot (maybe a little) hot as an engine fire halted the race on lap 10. After the fire was out Freeman went on to lead the remaining laps in the caution filled race for the win. Tim Griffin was in the runner-up spot with Bill Porter in third. Heats went to Freeman and Terry Lintville.

Road Hogs must think the points race is near the end because they raced four wide in the turn all night. In the end Tony Hunter was able to hold off Kenneth Short for the top spot. Dailey Sandlin came across in third. Heat wins went to Hunter, Short and "Wolf Born" Jason McGill won the Last Chance race.

As added special attraction was the "Cyclone" or mini cup cars. Michael Chilton of Harrodsburg, crossed the line in first. He was followed by Brian Reilly of Lawrenceburg and in third was Kimmel of Sellersburg, Indiana. The heat win went to Kimmel.

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RCHS SBDM

The RCHS SBDM Council will meet in special session on Thursday, April 19th at 3:30 in the Conference Room to being the selection of principal process.

Yard Sales

Yard Sale: Orlando at Beverly Sexton's, 14 mile past Jean's Restaurant, Saturday, 9 to 4. Lots of everything including maternity clothes.

Yard Sale: Sat. 9 to 7, Happy Acres Subdivision at Mareburg. Follow signs. Men, women and girl's clothes. Other odds and ends.



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EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD AND PICKED UP BY MAY 1ST, 2001

Leon's Furniture Center
859-986-1885
112 PRINCE ROYAL DRIVE BEREA, KENTUCKY

Cedar Rapids Dolphins Swim Team Organizational Meeting

Sunday, April 22nd at 2 p.m.

Cedar Rapids Country Club

For more information call:

256-9364, 758-8107,
256-5007, 256-4897

Rockcastle County WHAS Crusade for Children

First Annual Class C and D Softball Tournament
5 Home Run Limit

May 12, 2001
@ 8:00 a.m.

Roundstone Elementary School

\$125.00 Entry Fee

Team:

Contact Person:

All proceeds go to WHAS Crusade for Children.
T-shirts to be given to 1st and 2nd place winners.

Send to: Rockcastle County Hospital
C/O Mikhael Shaffer
P.O. Box 1310
Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

Or Drop off at the hospital.