



THE RIDGEDALE ROD & GUN CLUB

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 54, Stn Matsqui, Abbotsford, BC V4X 3R2

Range and Bookings: 604-826-0552 **Web:** www.ridgedale.net

Range: East END of Harris Road (35655) Abbotsford, BC

Archery, Pistol, Rifle, Black Powder, Trap and Fishing

Newsletter February 2015

Important Events

- **Annual Game Dinner - Saturday, March 7, 2015** **SOLD OUT**
Ridgedale Members & their guests only. Doors open: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
Come for the food, and stay for the entertainment by "Hong Kong Cowboy" Steve Lau.

- **Annual General Meeting - Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

This year's AGM is on Tuesday, March 10, starting at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

In addition to the reading of the minutes of last year's AGM and elections, we need to vote on few amendments to our Constitution & Bylaws. Details have been posted in the Members-Only Area of our website and in the clubhouse. Only members in good standing are eligible to vote!

Remember to wear your PhotoID card!

Please note that we do not process new applications or renewals on this date! The next opportunity to apply for membership is Wednesday, April 8, 2015, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

The Rock Wall

When driving up to the upper parking lot, you surely will notice this very attractive rock wall.



The rocks were donated by Matcon Civil Construction and, under the watchful eye of our Vice-President Dave Graham, expertly stacked by Tom Cassel of TW Excavating. Both companies are loyal Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club supporters helping us enhance the property.

About Membership

Just like renewing your driver's license, your insurance or what-have-you, renewing your membership really is your responsibility. Your membership expired on January 1. If you have not renewed yet, you are no longer in good standing, your gate access is suspended and you cannot use the range.

Most answers to questions about membership are found in the Membership Section of our website at <http://ridgedale.net/membership> If you do not have Internet access, call us. Following are a few issues we come across.

- **My gate card is not working!**

Have you renewed yet? Did you pay all fees, including the late fee? Renewals not received at the club by Dec 31 each year are subject to gate access suspension and a \$20 late fee; see our Membership Policy at <http://ridgedale.net/membership/membership-policy>

- **I'm not getting any mail or email from the Club!**

Make sure we always have your current contact information. Check your email junk folder and add us to your email 'safe list'.

- **I need a confirmation of membership letter to apply for my ATT.**

Contact our Chief Range Officer directly at cro@ridgedale.net Note: if you have not renewed your membership yet, he will be unable to help you.

- **I am waiting for my Photo/ID or Gate card.**

Many cards have been ready for month awaiting being pick up at the club. For new members, we strive to have them ready by orientation. If not, they will be by the next General Meeting.

- **Remember to include your name and membership** in all ALL communications with the Club.

As we are a volunteer-run organization, things may not always happen as soon we would like. Be patient. Our Membership Director processes application and renewals in the order received when she has an opportunity to do so.

Chief Range Officer's Corner

Despite very clear instruction on how to sign-in correctly when using the range, there still are members who fall doing so, especially when bringing guests. Some do not deposit the appropriate fee or leave no fees at all, or scribble rather than clearly print the information needed. Simply put, they ignore legal requirements and short-change the Club. How then does one sign in properly?

1. On arrival, at the first range you are using, sign in with your membership number, signature and 'time in'. When done shooting at that range, mark your 'time out'. If you are using another range after that, follow the same procedure and sign in and out at that range as well.
2. When bringing guests, you sign in as under "1", at the first range you are using. Guests always must be signed in with your membership number, followed by the word, "GUEST" or "JUNIOR" when the guest is 18 years or younger. Mark this also on the envelope!
3. **Then, using a separate envelope per guest fill out each envelope with your membership number, the guest's name, address and phone number.**
4. Insert the appropriate fee (\$10 for an adult; \$5 for a minor) and put the envelope in the slot at the first desk you sign in! Guests only pay once for their visit that day. Remember that at all times, your guest(s) and you must be at the same range.
5. Before guests handle any firearm or ammunition, be sure they understand the rules.
6. When done shooting, clean up after yourself. As people have made nasty falls by stepping on a spent casing, always pick up your brass and put them in the buckets provided!

If you been a member for some time, but are uncertain about the changes at the range, consider attending an orientation to be updated on the rules and procedures. Our Chief Range Officer gladly will make room for you at the earliest opportunity. Just sent your request, including your name, contact information and membership number to cro@ridgedale.net

Club Events

- **Archery Workbee**

March 7, 2015 – All Ranges closed.

For information, contact the Archery Chair at archery@ridgedale.net

- **Ridgedale Easter Shoot (Black Powder)**

At the range; April 2, 3, 4 & 5, 2015

Entry Fee is \$10.00 per shooter; no blanket prize table.

Hosted by: Ian Marshall | 604-856-1159 | rifle@ridgedale.net

Note that all our trails are cartridge-friendly now. So, if you want to play with your black powder guns, go for it. Wear your Black Powder Clothes!

Download our flyer at: <http://www.ridgedale.net/documents/2015-Easter-Shoot.pdf>

Other Events

- **BC Boat & Sportsmen's Show and the BC Hunting Show**

TRADEX – Abbotsford - March 6, 7 & 8, 2015

Admission: Adult - \$13; Senior (60+) - \$11; Junior (6-16) - \$11; Family Pass - \$32 (2 adults + 2 juniors); Children under 6 FREE when accompanied by an adult. Parking: \$6.00 per day.

Phone: 1.877.888.7111 – Web: <http://www.masterpromotions.ca/Previous-Events/bc-boat-and-sportsmen-s-show-bc-hunting-show-2015/>

- **BC Rod and Gun Show / Rod & Gun Swap**

Cloverdale Fairgrounds, Surrey, BC; April 17, 18 and 19, 2015

Friday: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

For information, call 778-869-4867 or visit <http://bcrodandgunshow.com/>

Training Calendar

- **PAL Training Course (Non-Restricted)**

Saturday, February 28, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.

Exam challenges are accepted

Cost: \$125; course book included

If you have questions or need information about the Restricted Course, call Doug at 604.857.5481 or Bob at 604.852.4350 or Juha at 604.826.6271

- **CORE Program (Hunter Training)**

March 14 & 15, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$125; course book included

For either course, pre-register at Canadian Tire (Abbotsford location only), at which time you must pay a \$25 deposit. You then will receive the course book and a receipt. Bring both to the RRG Clubhouse on the course date. Balance of \$100 is due on the first day of training. Exam challenges are accepted. If you need information, contact Doug at 604-855-8507 or Bob at 604-852-4350

- **Wildlife Allocation Changes Protest**

Last December, Fish & Wildlife announced sweeping changes to B.C.'s wildlife allocations, as proposed by the Guide-Outfitters Association of BC. This could result in 5,000 fewer LEH hunting permits for BC's 102,000 hunters. Though the revised Wildlife Allocation Policy the Ministry released last February may be a step in the right direction it still falls short. To protest against these allocations, and create public awareness, the Ladysmith Sportsmen's Club has organized a march and rally on the legislative grounds in Victoria on March 2, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 p.m.

BCWF News Release: <http://www.bcwf.net/index.php/new-items-sp-25573/news-release>

For more information on this issue, contact George Wilson, President, BCWF, Tel.: 250-946-6222 or Jim Glaicar, Vice President, BCWF. Tel.: 250-612-8294.

- **Osprey Nest Relocation Project**

The following article, written by RRG's Past President David Oliver, is provided courtesy BCWF.

Osprey Nest Relocation Project: Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club and BCWF Region 2 - Lower Mainland

By David Oliver, Treasurer, BCWF Region 2 and Chair, BCWF Access Committee

A pair of ospreys had built their nest on top of a power pole at Mainland Sand & Gravel's wash plant. Below the nest were three electrical transformers, and each year the ospreys would add wood branches to the nest. Most years, the ospreys would end up dropping a branch onto the power lines, knocking out the power to the whole operation.

Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club (RRGC) and the Lower Mainland Region BCWF (Region 2) approached Mainland Sand & Gravel to see if the company would allow RRGC and Region 2 to put up another pole with a platform and relocate the Osprey nest, to which MSG said yes.

Jack Evans (Wildlife Biologist for Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) was contacted as to whom the RRGC and Region 2 could talk to about relocating the Osprey's nest. Jack recommended talking to wildlife biologist David Hancock of Hancock Wildlife Foundation.

Arrangements were made for David to go out to Mainland Sand & Gravel ULC, Cox Station Quarry site, to meet with MSG Safety and Technical Compliance Manager Dani Miller to tour the site in order find out where a good location would be to relocate the Osprey's nest. David identified four possible locations and recommended that the pole for the Osprey nest would need to be seventy feet (70ft) off the ground. With that information in hand, MSG decided that they would like to put up two poles with platforms.

Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club Vice-President Dave Graham (Operations Manager at Magnum Concrete) and RRGC Past President David Oliver (who also serves as Treasurer for Lower Mainland Region BCWF) built two platforms with wood donated by MJ Concrete Pumping for the platform frame and other lumber supplied by

RRGC. Rubber screens for inside the platforms were generously supplied by MSG.

Dave Graham contacted Clayton Olivier, owner of Valley Power Line Contracting Ltd. (VPL), to see if he would be able to supply and install the pole and platform needed to give the osprey nest a new home. Clayton was more than happy to supply and install a seventy five foot (75ft) pole.

In September 2014, an application was submitted for a permit to relocate the Osprey's nest, and approval was received in the first part of November. MSG Mine Manager Louie Szlovicsak looked after getting the location ready for installing the pole.

Valley Power Line Contracting Ltd was able to install the pole and platform on November 22, 2014 and then moved the osprey nest itself on November 27, 2014. Installation of the pole was done by Clayton Olivier and Steve Abrahms of VPL and Mike Unger and David Oliver of the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club. Relocation of the Osprey nest was made possible by Clayton Olivier, Chris Sulef, and Scott Fowler of VPL; David Oliver; and Louie Szlovicsak of MSG.

A sign will be erected identifying the site as an Osprey Nest Relocation Project, and will thank the companies and organizations that made it possible including Valley Power Line Contracting Ltd, MJ Concrete Pumping, Magnum Concrete Inc., Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club, the B.C. Wildlife Federation, Lower Mainland Region BCWF (Region 2), the Hancock Wildlife Foundation, and Mainland Sand & Gravel ULC. The sign will be mounted on a concrete block that was donated by Magnum Concrete Inc.

Thanks to everyone that donated time, material, and resources in making this

project possible. Thanks also to all the Mainland Sand & Gravel employees that helped put up the second pole and platform.



Clayton Olivier, owner of Valley Power Line Contracting, removes the original osprey nest.



L to R: Mike Unger (Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club), Clayton Olivier (Owner of Valley Power Line Contracting), and Steve Abrahms (employee of Valley Power Line Contracting) after erecting a new 75' pole that will host the osprey nest.