



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 • Fishing

Newsletter June 2016

Wanted

▪ A scythe and/or parts

Some of you may ask, "What exactly is a scythe?" Well, it is a tool used for cutting crops such as grass or grain, with a long curved blade at the end of a long pole attached to which are one or two short handles. So, if you have one or some parts of one, please email Ian Marshall at rifle@ridgedale.net or call him at 604.856.1159 He will be happy to accept it on behalf of the Club to keep the black-powder trails at our range free from weeds. Who knows, come Halloween he may even use it as prop.

Club Calendar & Other Events

▪ June Specials at International Shooting Supplies

Check out the June Specials and New Arrivals at loyal club sponsor International Shooting Supplies, 14904 - 104 Avenue Surrey, BC, V3R 1M7. For details, visit <http://internationalshootingsupplies.com/> or call them toll-free at 1.877.588.7513

▪ General Meeting - Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Special guests, Gary Mauser and Blair Hagen (Vice President of the National Firearms Association) will update members about the status of firearms legislation.

→ **There are no meetings in July and August. The next General Meeting will be on September 14!** ←

▪ Archery Work Bee – Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Setting up the course for the archery 3D event on June 12.
- **All ranges will be closed!**

▪ Archery 3D Event – Sunday, June 12, 2016 – starting at 8:00 a.m.

- For information, contact Stephen Arnold at stephenarnold@shaw.ca or (604) 864-0907

▪ Family Fishing Day – Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery – June 18, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery is hosting a free-to-attend family fishing day event at 1818 McCallum Road, Abbotsford BC V2S 0H9. For information, email visit.fraservalley@gofishbc.com, call 604.504.4716 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/z83qf2r>

▪ Cabela's Abbotsford Grand Opening – June 23, 2016

Join the celebration at Cabela's Abbotsford Grand Opening. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. For directions, go to: <http://www.cabelas.ca/pages/abbotsford>

▪ Youth Day 2016 – Sunday, June 26, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bring your children, grandchildren and neighbour's kids to this fun-filled day of one-on-one supervised instruction in the responsible use of firearms, as well as archery and fishing equipment. For more information, visit http://www.ridgedale.net/documents/2016_Youth_Day_Poster.pdf Download a registration form/waiver at http://www.ridgedale.net/documents/Youth_Day_Registration_form.pdf

To save yourself some time registering on the day of the event, fill it out the form and bring it with you.

▪ BC Family Fishing Weekend – July 17 to 19, 2016

The Family Fishing Society of BC's 17th Family Fishing Weekend is coming up on the Father's Day weekend. Get out with the whole family, and fish for free! There are many great events hosted throughout the province. For more information visit: <http://bcfamilyfishing.com/events-link.htm>

- **The Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club's 8th Annual Summer Mountain Goat Rendezvous**
Saturday, July 23 & Sunday, July 24, 2016



Arrive as early as Friday, July 22, after 3:00 p.m. to set up camp and shoot the breeze.

- **Camping:** Parking lot for tin teepees; grass for tents
- **Entry Fee:** \$10.00 per shooter; no Blanket Prize required
- Non-member black powder shooters are very welcome.

For more information, see the poster at the range or contact Ian at rifle@ridgedale.net. You can download the poster at http://www.rridgedale.net/documents/2016_Summer_Rendezvous.pdf

Training

Firearms Safety Training Courses this June

- **PAL Training Course (non-restricted) - Saturday, June 25, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
Cost: \$125 - Course book included. Pre-register at Canadian Tire (Abbotsford location only). A \$25 deposit must be paid at time of registration. You will receive the course book and a receipt. Bring both to the RRG Clubhouse on the course date. Balance of \$100 is due at time of training.
For more information, visit <http://ridgedale.net/calendar/pal-training-course-non-restricted>
- **RPAL Training Course (Restricted) - Wednesday, June 29, 2016, from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**
Cost: \$50 (when you have taken your PAL at our Club). If you have taken your PAL elsewhere you pay \$75. Course books available for loan. **Registration not required, however, you must have successfully completed the PAL training.**
For information, visit <http://ridgedale.net/calendar/rpal-training-course-restricted>
If you have any questions about the above courses, call Doug at 604.857.5481 or Bob at 604.852.4350

Fishing & Hunting News

- **The Fraser River Sport-fishing Alliance (FRSA)**
On May 16, a newly formed alliance of fishing guides, recreational anglers and industry representatives met to discuss options to reverse the alarming decline of salmon fishing opportunities on the Fraser River. A once flourishing fishery, which in the past opened on May 1, has been postponed to August 1 with no guarantee of opening. The recreational fishing community demands that the Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) demonstrate management of the fishery that provides equitable treatment for all sectors. The current and past closures represent a tremendous loss of revenue to local communities.
In a May 20 press release, the FRSA issued three demands calling on the DFO to, **1)** manage the Fraser River salmon fishery in an equitable fashion that recognizes the rights of sport anglers, **2)** to assure that under no circumstances the recreational fishing allocation of salmon should not be transferred to another sector; and that **3)** the tremendous economic value of the recreational Fraser River salmon fishery (in excess of 100 million dollars) be recognized.

Because the FRSA has come together to create a united voice for the recreational angler, they deserve the support of the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club. What do you think? For further information, please contact:

- **Guiding Fraternity** Tony Nootebos tony@bcSPORTfishinggroup.com 604 796 3345
- **Recreational Anglers** Rod Clapton rclapton@shaw.ca 604 530 1624
- **Tackle Industry** Fred Helmer fredhelmer55@gmail.com 604 845 0527

Walking the Talk

▪ A proposal to support the Dewdney Elementary School's Wetland Restoration Project



Just east of Mission, at the north eastern corner of the Dewdney Elementary School property is a small wetland inundated with invasive reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. The blackberry continues to expand and encroach onto the playground. In addition to invasive species, the wetland is riddled with garbage and waste.

Recently, the school has taken great strides to transform their schoolyard into an interactive place to learn and be in touch with the natural environment by creating an outdoor classroom and 'Naturescape' complete with apple trees, edible berries, several garden boxes, a marshy hollow and natural wood learning areas.

The school's Community Outdoor Recreation and Environment Education Program blends environmental education, stewardship and restoration into the structure of students' learning. If you like to know more about this approach to teaching and learning, visit <https://dewdneyelementarycore.wordpress.com/>

The BC Wildlife Federation wishes to restore this wetland and create a safe learning environment primarily by using a machine to remove the invasive species, and recontour the land (which currently is very uneven and hazardous). Placing of sitting stones and/or logs will also provide an area for students to observe the wetland. Native species will be planted, as well. The restoration will be managed by BCWF Wetlands Program staff as well as wetland restoration expert Tom Biebighauser, who has restored over 1,400 wetlands across North America, including many on school grounds.

At this stage, the Club could support the school by providing:

- Tipping or dumping fees associated with the control of invasive species
- In-kind support to help cut down invasive species (via time) a or funding to help compensate a field crew worker(s) involved in maintenance in the first few years,
- Landscaping materials that may include: feature logs or rocks, clean soil amender/mulch/top-soil
- Materials or support to integrate an irrigation system to help establish the native species in the first few years
- Fencing materials
- Preparation of nest boxes or installation of posts to hang nest boxes (students can help in the assembly or putting up of the nest boxes)
- Materials and/or time to make an attractive gated entranceway from soccer field into natural area
- Invite "expert" guest speakers who could talk to students about various wildlife in an outdoor setting
- Other supplies directly related to the project (TBD based on project changes in identified needs)

Susan McLeod, the school's principal, feels very passionate about this project and wants to restore this area, "so students, families, community members and our first nations community can learn, explore, play and discover the richness and diversity of nature in our back yard."

Knowing that one of our club's objectives is to, "develop and/or support educational programs to make all British Columbians aware of the value of our fish, wildlife, park and outdoor recreational facilities," getting involved in this project would clearly show that we are not just talk. Being part of this project not only would give you personal satisfaction, but also acknowledge the club as a valued member of the community.

Join us at the June 8 General Meeting to discuss this informal proposal.

Volunteering in the Ridgedale Rod & Gun Club

- **Want to get involved?**

Except for a part-time administrative assistant the Club is run by dedicated volunteers. Recently, member Debra Wolfe joined our team as Membership Assistant. Though she certainly is an asset to the membership section, we urgently need two members to take on the positions of Newsletter Editor and Youth Coordinator, respectively. If you are interested in accepting one of these positions, please talk to me at the June General Meeting or mail me at president@ridgedale.net. Thank you.

Remember RAPP!

- **Report All Poachers and Polluters**

In the coming months, many will venture into the backcountry, enjoying camping, fishing and hunting. As you know some users of our natural resources do not show due respect for nature and other people's property, nor stick the rules. Therefore, the Conservation Officer Service needs your help in catching poachers and polluters.

The RAPP program is a toll free tip line and online service that allows you to report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender. This hotline should be used also to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk.



**Report All Poachers and Polluters (R.A.P.P.)
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline**

1.877.952.7277 or Cellular Dial #7277

Wishing you all a great summer, safe travel, and successful fishing and hunting!

Support our Loyal Supporters

