



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 March 2017

Annual General Meeting – Election Results

At the March 8 Annual General Meeting, 43 voting members casted their vote to fill the following positions:

- Vice President - Dave Graham (reelected by acclamation - 2 yrs)
- Groundskeeper/Maintenance - Al Fadden (elected by acclamation - 2 yrs)
- Webmaster - BJ Bateman (elected by acclamation - 2 yrs)
- Membership – David Oliver (elected by acclamation - 2 yrs)

The only vacancy at this time is Fishing Chair. If you're interested in taking on this position, mail me at president@ridgedale.net.

Events

- **General Meeting - Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – Starts at 7:00 p.m.**

Come early to have a coffee, meet old friends and make new ones. This is also an opportunity to renew your membership. You can find renewal forms in the display to the right of the kitchen counter. Remember that at this time we only accept cash or cheque.

Cancellation of Black Powder Events

→ **Due to unavailability of the organizers, all 2017 Black Powder events have been cancelled.**

This & That

The 2017 Annual Game Dinner Was a Great Success!

With the hall packed to capacity, the musicians playing, and more food than we could possibly eat, the annual game dinner was a great success.

Though kudos goes to all who made this event happen, special thanks go to Miles McCarthy for 'cooking up a storm' and organizing the event.

Range Office Hours

- **Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesdays, from 12:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m., and**
- **Saturday April 1, April 22, May 13 and May 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

You may also contact us by email at officeadmin@ridgedale.net or by calling **604-826-0552**.

Training

- **PAL Training Course (non-restricted)**

Saturday, April 22, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. → Testing on Sunday, April 23 at 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$125 - Course book included.

Pre-register at Canadian Tire (Abbotsford location only). You must pay a \$25 deposit at time of registration. You then will receive the course book and a receipt. Bring both to the RRG Clubhouse on the course date. Balance of \$100 to paid on the day of the course.

- **RPAL Training Course (Restricted)**

Sunday, April 23, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. – noon. → Testing at 1:00 p.m. that day!

Cost: \$50 (when you took your PAL at our Club). **If you have taken your PAL elsewhere you pay \$75.**

Course books are available for loan during the course. Registration is not required. However, you must have successfully completed the PAL training.

- **CORE Program (2-Day Hunter Training)**

Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days.

Cost: \$125 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 RRGCC Clubhouse on the course date. Balance of \$100 is due on the first day of training.

NOTE: Online challenges (CORE only) are accepted.

If you have questions about the above courses, call Doug at 604.857.5481 or Bob at 604.852.4350.

Membership Matters... a Lot!

So, You Did Not Renew Yet.

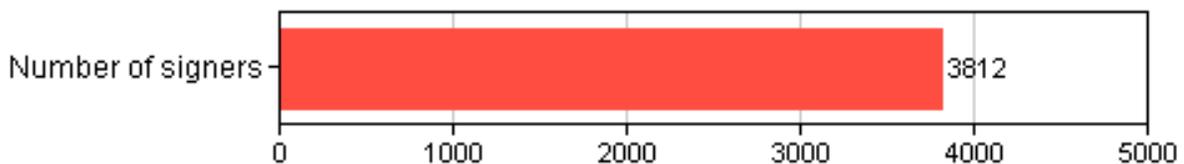
As you know, membership runs from January 1 until December 31. What you may not realize is that unless we received your renewal by December 31, you are not covered under the Excess Third Party Liability Insurance policy and ATV coverage, and your gate access will be suspended! **This means that as off January 1, you are not be able to legally hunt or shoot in North America, nor use the range, until we have received and processed your renewal.** When renewing you must include the \$20 Capital Project Fee, and because you are late you also have to include \$20 late fee. Once we have processed your renewal and payment, we reactivate your gate card and your insurance. For information, email membership@ridgedale.net or call 604-826-0552 during office hours.

About 2017 Stickers

If you already renewed your membership, but haven't received your 2017 year sticker, the fastest way to ensure you can show you are a member in good standing is by picking it up in person at a General Meeting or during the office hours listed on page 1 of this newsletter. It really is. Thank you for your cooperation.

From the BC Wildlife Federation: A Petition to the Province to dedicate licence fees from hunting and other resource users directly to fish and wildlife management

Help hit the goal!



Background

British Columbia (BC) is home to more than half of all fish and wildlife species in Canada. We are losing the unique and abundant biodiversity that makes our province special, as well as the resources available to stem these declines have been shunted to other areas of government spending.

Declining Fish, Wildlife and Habitat

- The human population of BC nearly doubled between 1975 and 2015, from 2.5 to 4.7 million people, putting tremendous pressure on fish and wildlife habitat
- The endangered mountain caribou are in decline across most of BC; multiple populations now number less than 50
- Moose, elk, and mule deer are declining across many parts of BC. For example, from 1989 to 2014 resident hunter moose harvest declined from 13,000 to 5,000.
- Over 85% of wetlands in the Lower Mainland and the South Okanagan have been lost, removing critical habitat for amphibians, reptiles, fish, and birds - and altering the role these habitats play in cleaning our drinking water
- Kootenay and Arrow Lake kokanee and rainbow trout are at record lows
- Thompson and Chilko River steelhead have declined from over 6,000 fish in 1985 to 600 today; they are now at a record low, and classified as extreme conservation concern

- In spite of these declines, there are no mandated population objectives or goals for fish and wildlife populations

Funding for Fish and Wildlife Management

- BC has one of the most under-funded, under-staffed fish and wildlife management agencies in North America
- BC is one of the only jurisdictions in North America without a dedicated funding model for wildlife management
- From 1984-2010 the number of full-time equivalents (employees) in the Ministry of Environment went from 2,116 to 1,533
- From 1998-2011 the provincial government's budget doubled while funding for renewable resource ministries was cut by 56%
- Only 18% (\$2.6 million) of the \$14.5 million collected through hunting licence fees are dedicated to BC's fund for fish and wildlife conservation, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Non-renewable natural resource extraction will have a long-term negative effect on biodiversity and there is no mechanism in place to compensate for these losses
- Activities such as ecotourism, wildlife viewing, mining, heli-skiing, oil and gas, and logging should all contribute to natural resource and biodiversity conservation.

You can sign the petition at <http://bcwf.net/index.php/2017-political-election-questions/sign-the-petition>

Fishing Licences & Regulations

100% of freshwater fishing licence fees go toward making fishing even better.

Source: Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC - <http://www.gofishbc.com/>

Under an agreement signed between the Province and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC in 2015, 100% of the revenue generated from fishing licences directly benefits recreational fishing. That's right, every penny goes into research, conservation and education programs, improving angler access and our stocking program. The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation receives 100% of the surcharge revenue collected from angling licence sales to provide grants for fish conservation projects.

Freshwater Licences

If you are 16 years of age or older you must have a valid basic freshwater fishing licence to sport fish in non-tidal waters in BC. You must also purchase the appropriate supplementary licences and stamps. If you are under 16 and a resident of BC, you may sport fish without any licence or stamp but must still abide by the regulations.

You can purchase your non-tidal/freshwater fishing licence [online](#) through the government of B.C.'s website or in person from a participating vendor.

For information on angling licences and fees, visit the provincial government's Fish and Wildlife Branch website at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/>

Please note, if you're going to fish in tidal waters, you will need to purchase your tidal waters sport fishing licence through the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website.

Freshwater Regulations

Be sure to read and understand the Freshwater Fishing Regulations before you go fishing. You can download and print specific regions from the synopsis or obtain a hard copy from a licence vendor. To download the **2017-2019 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis** (Complete Edition) go to:

<https://www.ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/nrls-sndpp/index-eng.cfm>

To download the 2017-2019 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis **by region**, please use the links at

<https://www.ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/nrls-sndpp/index-eng.cfm>

The RRGC Raffle

→ Only 500 Tickets Will Be Sold – 7 prizes, 7 winners!

Tickets (\$10 each) are available at meetings, orientations, club events, and at the range during office hours

from January 11 to June 25, 2017. As there are only 500 tickets available, the odds of winning a prize are outstanding. Thanks to our loyal sponsors, the prizes are:

Cap-It	Camping Collection (2 Adventure Rocker Chairs, 15 quart Grizzly Cooler & Camp Chef Pro60 2-Burner Stove w/BBQ Box)	\$ 850
Italian Sporting Goods	Gift Card	\$ 300
International Shooting Supplies	Gift Card	\$ 200
Quickie Rope	6 Tie-Downs & Handle Bar Straps	\$ 150
Otter Co-op	Gas Card	\$ 100
Fraserway RV	Outland Deluxe Fire Bowl	\$ 100
Canadian Tire	Lagostina Meat Grinder	\$ 100

Chances are 1 in 500 to win a prize.

BC Gaming Event Licence #91448

Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-795-6111
www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca

Know your limit, play within it. 19+

The winning numbers will be drawn at the **Annual Youth Day** on **Sunday, June 25, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.** Buy your tickets as soon as you have a chance! Good luck!

Support Our Loyal Sponsors



Howard Wong Farms

