



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 September 2017

Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Ban Carries on into Hunting Season

▪ **Restriction for Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast districts**

A ban on off-road use of trucks, quads and other motor vehicles in much of southern B.C. has been in place since early August to prevent wildfires, and it continues as hunting season, which opened Sunday, September 10.

The restriction is in effect for the Cariboo, Kamloops and Southeast fire centres. Restrictions are not in place for the Coastal region, including Vancouver Island, and the Northwest and Prince George regions spanning the northern half of the province.

Note that:

- The ban on using vehicles off-road does not apply to guide-outfitters using their vehicles to gain access to the backcountry for work. All others are restricted to paved, gravel or mineral soil-surfaced roads that are free of dry grass, leaves or other vegetation. They must stay on constructed road surfaces, and off single-track trails.
- Violations of the off-road ban carry a fine of \$767. If the activity causes a wildfire, the person responsible may also be ordered to pay firefighting and associated costs.
- To report a violation, call the B.C. environment ministry's Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-7277 or cellular #7277 The restrictions apply to Crown land, not private land or national parks.

The severity of this year's wildfire season and dry conditions in southern B.C. has also caused the B.C. Wildfire Service to impose complete bans on entry to backcountry, even by foot, in some areas, for the first time since the 2003 wildfire season. The public access ban remains in effect for the Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District in the East Kootenay.

While backcountry access bans have been lifted in the Cariboo, Kamloops and most areas of the Southeast fire centre, access is still discouraged and off-road vehicle use remains prohibited. For information on fire bans and restrictions, visit <http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/Bans.asp>

Events

▪ **General Meeting - Wednesday, October 11, 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.

▪ **After 30 Years Wholesale Sports Closing its Doors**

Wholesale Sports' parent company issued a news release announcing that Wholesale Sports is conducting an orderly wind down of its business operations.

As a customer you need to know:

- No new online purchases will be processed after 3:00 PM (MST) today, September 14, 2017.
- The Wholesale Sports website at <http://www.wholesalesports.com/> will become a static webpage offering only customers information on the liquidation sale event.
- Wholesale Sports will fulfill all current open on-line orders.
- The liquidation sales begin on Friday, September 15, and continue until all merchandise is sold at each

retail store, but will end no later than December 28, 2017.

- Various merchandise discounts will be announced throughout the process, watch the Wholesale Sports website for details.
- All sales are final. No refunds or exchange on items purchased.
- All Wholesale Sports gift cards can be used in store only until December 28, 2017. Any gift card balance remaining after December 28, 2017 shall have no cash value and be void for further use.
- All Wholesale Sports Wild Card discounts will no longer be valid for use.
- All manufacturer warranties remain in effect. Customers should contact manufacturers directly with any issues.
- **Hours of Operation: Mon–Fri: 9:00 - 9:00 | Sat: 9:00 - 6:00 | Sun: 9:00 - 5:00 | Holidays: 9:00 - 5:00**

Range Improvements

To improve the backstop of the 100-yard range, and prevent further erosion of the hill, Tom Cassel of TW Excavating and Mike Unger, with major muscle from Richard Withers and Miles McCarthy constructed a new wall consisting out of large tires filled with gravel. Miles coordinated the entire project. As you can tell from the photos below, they did a fantastic job!



Trap

The renovation of our two trap houses has been completed. We installed new floors, painted the roofs green, and set up the new trap machine in #2.

Membership Update

- The “membership renewal” form we used for more than a decade will no longer be used.
- Starting early October, members will receive three membership renewal notices; one at 90 days, one at 60 days and one at 30 days.
- Members that attended a work bee will receive a promo code to enter to receive their \$20.00 discount on membership renewal. The code can be used only once.
- Members for whom we have no email address will be sent a two-part (renewal) invoice; one copy to be filled out and returned to the Club with their funds for membership renewal; one copy for their own records.
- We have created a Student Membership for students 18-25 years of age. The membership fee will be \$45.00. Applicants need a valid PAL, and submit a copy of their school registration.
- If your Family Membership includes a person over the age of 18, please be aware that, for insurance reasons, once a dependent turns 18, they are no longer covered under the Family Membership. Unless they fall in the Student category, they are required to apply for an Individual Membership.
- Membership runs from January 1 until December 31. Unless we have 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**

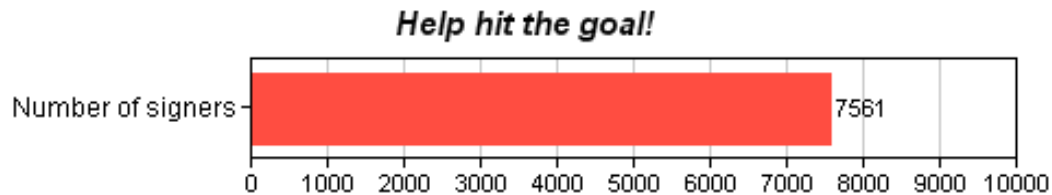
shoot in North America, nor use the range, until we have received and processed your renewal.

- When renewing, you must include the \$20 Capital Project Fee.
- When renewing after January 1, you also have to include \$20 late fee. Once your renewal and payment have been processed, we reactivate your gate card and your insurance. If you have questions, email membership@ridgedale.net or call 604-826-0552 during office hours.

The Petition to the Province to Dedicate Licence Fees from Hunting and Other Resource Users Directly to Fish and Wildlife Management - Update

▪ Funding for Fish and Wildlife Management

In our March Newsletter we reported on the BCWF's request to sign a "Petition to the Province" to dedicate licence fees from hunting and other resource users directly to fish and wildlife management. At that time, just over 3,800 people had signed. Since then the number has grown to 7,561; see below.



For detailed information and help hit the goal of 10,000, go to <http://bcwf.net/index.php/2017-political-election-questions/sign-the-petition>

The Future of Hunting and Fishing is at Risk

- **In a politically driven decision, the new BC government has announced that it will close grizzly bear hunting in the Great Bear Rainforest per November 30, 2017.**

Though outside the Great Bear Rainforest grizzly bear hunting would continue, hunters can not possess the hide, head, nor paws of the bear; something government has defined as "trophy parts". The government also said this is only for grizzly bears and does not apply to other species. Yet, we suspect that it's not really about grizzly bear "trophy hunting" but about hunting in general!

The BC Wildlife Federation has responded saying this approach is wasteful and inconsistent with the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. This model has led to the successes of wildlife conservation and management in the United States and Canada, bringing back our game animals and establishing the notions of fair chase and public ownership of wildlife.

What we should bear in mind is that so-called "conservation organizations" that were only opposed to the "trophy hunting of grizzly bears" now have stated publicly they will start to focus on eliminating black bear hunting. And, if the BC government continues to listen to them don't be surprised hunting bans on all predator species, followed by species such as sheep, goats and finally deer, moose and elk.

First Nations will continue to have a constitutional right to hunt for food, social and ceremonial purposes. It will be indigenous people who decide what happens in their traditional territories. The government has announced a consultation period, which will be merely a temperature check of public response to this change.

If you want to continue to hunt and fish, the best thing you can do is write, email, and/or meet with your MLAs to educate them about this issue and stress the importance of maintaining hunting practices that do not waste any part of any animal taken. Write the premier, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, as well as the party leaders of the Green and Liberal Party. Find your MLA at <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members>

Your message does not need to be technical. All you need to get across is how important conservation, and fishing and hunting are to you and future generations. Be clear on where you stand on hunting and fishing, particularly as it relates to the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. If people who hunt and fish do not stand up for conservation and future generations your rights will continue to erode.

From the Chief Range Officer

- **The vast majority of members use our facilities responsibly. However, please remember that:**
 1. As directed on the sign posted on the fence, **no parking is allowed in the emergency zone.** This space is for emergency vehicles only. It is not a parking area to shorten your walk to the ranges. For those who need it, there are two handicap parking spots; a **valid** "handicap-parking permit" need be displayed!
 2. Firearms with ammunition are not to be left unattended on shooting benches. When you have to leave your bench for a short time secure your firearm and ammunition before leaving!

Dennis Weeks, CRO

Our 2017 RRGc Annual Raffle

- Each year we hold a club raffle to raise money for our youth programs and related activities. The draw for this raffle was held on June 25th. This year's winners are:
 - 100 Otter Co-op Gas Card → Scott Craig
 - \$200 International Shooting Supplies Gift Card → Luke Klassen
 - \$300 Italian Sporting Goods Gift Card → Brad Watson
 - Fraserway RV's Outland Deluxe Fire Bowl → Darlene Wong
 - Quickie Rope Tie-Downs & Handle Bar Straps → Myrthe Van Nederveen
 - Canadian Tire's Meat Grinder → Brian Fooks
 - Cap-it's Camping Collection (2 Adventure Rocker Chairs, 5 Quart Grizzly Cooler & Camp Chef Pro60 2 Burner Stove with BBQ Box) → Marcel Sward

A big "Thank you!" goes to our sponsors, and PR/Fundraising Chair Loreal Goertzen and her member helpers to make this raffle a success.

Questions?

Whenever you have questions or suggestions for section heads or club officers, visit our Contacts page at <http://ridgedale.net/contact>

Support Our Loyal Sponsors



Howard Wong Farms

