



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 November 2018

Events at a Glance

Range Orientation Saturday, November 24 – From 9 a.m. (sharp) **All ranges closed until noon.**

General Meeting Wednesday, December 12 – Starting at 7 p.m.

January General Meeting Wednesday, January 9, 2019 – Starting at 7 p.m.

We Need Game Meat!

Before we know it is March, and our fabulous Annual Game Dinner. To cook up a storm, Miles welcomes donations of game meat; be it, buffalo, caribou, deer, elk, moose, beaver, cougar, rabbit, duck, goose or what have you. You may contact him at booking@ridgedale.net or (604) 826-0552 Thanks in advance.

Bow Hunters, Attention!

In the spring of 2018, changes were made to the mule deer hunting seasons in **Region 8 for the 2018 and 2019 fall seasons**. As the 2016-2018 Synopsis was effective until June 30, 2018, this may have escaped some hunters.

The changes are described in the **2018-2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis**, available online at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/regulations-synopsis>. That Synopsis is effective from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020.

The bottom line is that the **Bow Only Season for Mule Deer (BUCKS) in MU 8-1 to 8-11, 8-21, 8-22, and 8-24 to 8-26 from Nov 25 - Dec 10 is cancelled.**

Trap

On November 4, with the Bill Farr Memorial on the day, and a big meat shoot after, we really hit a homer. With 44 out of 50 targets, Brendan Wong won the trophy and high gun option, earning \$595.00 in total. Not to shabby for a morning's work! Jordan Vandockenberg won second place (\$265), and Howard Wong took home the third place money (\$175). All the funds came out of the shoot. The club got a big prize as well.



Big winner Brendan Wong with Trap Chair/President Dave Graham



2nd Place winner Jordan Vandockenberg with Dave Graham

New Storage Shed Finished

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of Mike Unger (and sons) of Immanuel Resources, our very own Miles McCarthy, Magnum Concrete Inc., Tom Cassel of TW Excavating Ltd. and 'friendly supervision' by Dave Graham, the new shed at the upper parking lot is now in use.



Photo: Dave Graham

About the SFU Shoot

On Sunday, September 30, braving the hard rain, twenty students very much enjoyed Gary Mauser's SFU shoot and the great lunch prepared by Miles. Kudos to CRO Troy and his team of Range Safety officers for ensuring a safe event, and coaching participants in the safe use of firearms.

Shoots like these introduce younger people to the sport, while helping us raise the awareness that responsible gun owners follow an ingrained discipline of 'Safety First' in their sport of choice and are not the 'bad people' that some Canadian politicians claim them to be.



Photos: Rebecca Watson

Archery

By: Jason Tryon (Archery Chair)

Over the last few weeks, the \$1,500.00 archery targets in the basement were shot with .22's and BBs. Trusting that this will not continue, I put up signs on the targets as shown. Members violating this demand risk suspension or loss of their membership.

**ARCHERY TARGETS
ONLY!!!
NO PISTOL OR RIFLE**

We are shooting now indoors for the winter months, every Thursday night from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 pm. New shooters are welcome to try archery. To ensure someone will be there, email me a few hours before at archery@ridgedale.net

Archery, continued

As I now work at Get-Away RV Centre, I am pleased to let you know that Ridgedale members will receive a 10% discount off any regular priced item in the Parts Department on showing a current membership card. You may check out their website at <https://www.getawayrv.com/>

Rogue Elephant

By Andrew Watson (W-114)

Growing up in Rhodesia, known as Zimbabwe today, I was fortunate being a rancher's son learning the life of the bushveldt (<https://tinyurl.com/bquedd4>) at an early age. In the 1960s, wild game was plentiful. Regrettably, many exotic animals that are protected today were considered pests at the time. The magnificent elephant was one such beast.

Our ranch bordered on Tribal Trust Land, something akin to a First Nations Reserve here in Canada, where the tribal chief allocated native Africans plots of land on which to grow their crops. As crops and wild animals do not match well in the mind of a farmer, many tribes people would surround their fields with felled acacia trees, relying on the trees' two inch long needle-like thorns, to keep out the wild game. While these makeshift fences kept impalas and kudus away, elephants were not deterred so easily.

One particular tribesman had an ancient musket, and when an old bull elephant stepped over the acacia barrier, he shot at it, shattering the upper portion of its tusk, with the projectile becoming lodged in the nerve. The elephant, enraged, trampled the man to death and then, inexplicably, dragged the felled acacia trees over the man's remains to prevent the lions, jackals and hyenas from feeding on the man's corpse. The police called my father, an honorary game warden, to the scene. It was his task to track the old bull and kill it. I was far too young to accompany him but his description of what happened still makes me to wonder just how sentient these magnificent animals are.

Tracking the old bull, my father saw that it had joined a herd. In places, he saw that two younger elephants had walked on either side of the bull, supporting him as they walked. The next day he spotted the old bull, but could not get a clean shot at him. However, my father did notice that the tusk was loose, which must have brought the old bull unbearable pain with each movement. At dusk, my father was able to get within feet of the elephant lying unconscious, with his trunk stretched out, in an opening surrounded by trees. Dad said that he could see the two grooves in the dirt at the end of the bull's trunk made by its breath. The pungent smell of rotting flesh was enough to make my father gag. When he pulled up his old .475 No.2 Jeffery, he felt that he was doing the old bull a favour.

I remember my Dad telling me that he was so close that the flame from the tip of the barrel seemed to touch the bull's head. All that time, the matriarch of the herd was watching them. She could have chased off my father easily. However, as if she knew that death was the kindest thing that could be brought to the old bull, she did not. With the noise of the gunshot, the herd stampeded, trumpeting loudly. While Dad sprinted to the nearest tree to get out of their way, they avoided him. Not, he said, because they were afraid of what he might do to them—they could have killed him as the old bull had the tribesman—but instead left him to live, as if allowing the end to happen

Managing Moose - But Don't You Just Shoot Them?

By Andrew Watson (W-114)

It may be hard to hear for some, but hunters taking that big trophy Bull Moose actually may be the cause of declining moose populations in BC. If you're like me—and many other hunters—you know that the right thing to do in managing animal harvest would be to take out the older bulls and allow new fresh genes to be introduced into the population. However, according to Distinguished Moose Biologist Ken Child, with moose that is not the case.

At the September General Meeting, Ken Child gave a very interesting, highly informative talk on managing moose populations in Northern BC. Conservation and managing moose is not like managing cattle or elk and any other ungulate. In his terms, moose are serially monogamous, meaning they don't form harems as elk do, for example. As it is the cow that chooses the bull, not the other way around, a bull moose may cover only one or two cows in a season. If she doesn't find her 'ideal beau' she'll go uncovered that estrous, but she might mate with a young bull in the second estrous, some 28 days later. That second estrous calf will be smaller, weaker, and as a result stands a far lower chance of survival. Similar studies done on moose in Norway reported the same findings. However, as Scandinavian hunters hunt for meat, not trophies, they harvest cows and calves because their meat is sweeter. Consequently, their moose populations are thriving.



Managing Moose, continued

As hunters, we are foremost conservationists. As such, we should be prepared to admire that big trophy bull through our riflescope—and then let him go to cover another cow. That way, we can ensure leaving our children and grandchildren a thriving moose population, and enjoy the same passion as you and I.

When You Have Club-related Questions

- Email officeadmin@ridgedale.net or call (604) 826-0552 during office hours on:

November 21 & 24 – December 15

For updates check <http://ridgedale.net/about/office-hours> or call the office.

→ Email addresses for executive members and sections are found at <http://ridgedale.net/contact>.



Wishing You All a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



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Howard Wong Farms

