

Parksville – Qualicum Fish & Game Association



Newsletter sent February 23, 2023

DORMAN ROAD SHOTGUN RANGE



The shotgun range continues to attract shooters of all ages. Our shooting hours are Sundays from 10:00 and even-dated Wednesdays, starting at 11:00 (in deference to our neighbors). Our sporting clays occur on the fourth Saturday of the month. Occasionally, if we have a special championship event, we may shoot on another Saturday. Fortunately, COVID has not affected our programs.

“I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went . . .then it dawned on me.”

We have a shooting day for club championship. Bob Marr proved out to be the champion.



A photo of our trap field #2 with the skeet range beyond the fence line. A round of 25 skeet usually takes twice as long as a round of trap and to reduce the wait-time for the skeet shooters, we are now setting up portable clay pigeon machines on this range to give more shooting time to the skeet shooters.



During the year, we have had to revamp our picnic shelter to conform to the building bylaws of the Regional District. The picnic shelter was reconstructed to have no more than 100 square feet per section. The picnic shelter, along with the picnic tables, provides a great shelter from the rain (and hopefully for the future sun).

“I should have been sad when I lost my flashlight, but I was delighted.”

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SPORTING CLAYS

Sporting Clays involves 10 shots at each of 10 stations with a squad of 6 shooters. Three of the stations are set up on the existing trap and skeet fields and seven stations are set up through the woods. Portable machines are set up to throw birds at all angles. Most of the Clubs on the Island have a sporting clays program, but our Club, being somewhat central, and with setups in the forest, is very popular with the shooters. 50 to 60 shooters are common, but we have had up to 95 shooters.

We are now offering an extra 60 birds after the main round to interested shooters that wish to make their travel to our range worthwhile.

“I gave away dead batteries . . . free of charge.”

A group of 6 to 10 volunteers set up the machines on the Friday before.

We are unique on the Island in that we are the only Club that provides a lunch, compliments of Andy Lemmon, for the shooters that request it.



An introductory and safety talk starts the shooting day.



Some of the portable machines set up at one station.



Two of the stations in the woods.

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Usually right after lunch, we have another shooting game. This photo shows the line-up for an “Annie Oakley”. Three shooters at a time shoot at a bird, and if one person misses the bird, and if the second or third shooter hits the bird, the previous shooter(s) are knocked out.



The range committee, comprised of Bob Davenport, John O’Regan, Mike Curtin, Bob Marr, Keith Thompson, Bill Kellow and Ron Card oversee the running of the range. We thank Bob Davenport and John O’Regan for all the time and effort that they put in to make the range enjoyable and successful. And we thank Darren and Paige Peerens for all their contributory efforts in setup and range operations.

HENRY RANGE REPORT

What is in a name?

Way back in the last millennium we were members of a range that consisted of one roughly cleared area of bog, one stump covered hillside, and one tattered, well ventilated (*read: shot up*) shack, proudly called the Henry Range, singular. *Fast forward* to 2023 – we have three tidy firearms ranges with covered firing lines, two clubhouses and an area for archery. Here is the question – is this still the Henry ‘Range’, or is it Henry ‘Ranges’, Henry’s Ranges, or The Henry Range Complex?



Plenty of Developments in the Past Year

Highlights for me include the two gun shows held on-site, plus the very first National Range Day.

Regular monthly shoots have all been well attended and plenty of fun.

Our long-time renters (Federal, Provincial, and private security firms) keep rolling in plus some new groups having fun days including birthday party events.

PQ Work Social



This ad hoc group continues to do amazing work, all while drinking plenty of coffee.

The most visible things include more concrete walkways, raised compacted gravel walkways, enhanced drainage (almost ready to declare the property a gum-boot free zone!), new roof on the pistol range, fresh paint everywhere and the addition of more sound abatement throughout. There are plenty of other projects that



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happen without notice including target frame repairs, berm upgrading, general cleanup and keeping the weeds under control. Small actions lead to continual improvements.

Our little Thursday morning gang mostly has a good time, mainly because working hard is vigorously discouraged...and sometimes there are cookies on hand to encourage a leisurely approach to project management. Stop in and visit every Thursday morning 9 – noonish. *(See us on Facebook)*

Upcoming

Spring Gun Show is on 28 May and National Range Day is 3 Jun. We're hoping that this year's Range Day is bigger and better than last. We have reached out to a major outdoor supplier for financial help to really make a big splash for the public. Stay tuned as we will need plenty of volunteers for that day.



Acknowledgments

A big shout out to all volunteers, thank you for all your help.

Remember folks, this is your range – please help keep it clean. Pick up after yourself, and from time to time, pick up after some other lazy so and so.

Colin & Tracy



WORK SOCIAL GANG Every Thursday – 9 am

PQWORKSOCIAL

Please join us - we promise minimum sweat & maximum laughs, and sometimes cookies.

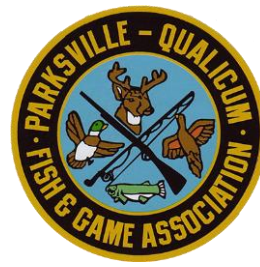
MARION BAKER HATCHERY UPDATE

Coho returns were late this year due to low water levels. The coho were trapped in a pool under the old highway bridge, and tidal waters, for a week or so before water levels rose enough for them to go up the creek.

On November 4th and 5th, 2023 we were able to capture our brood stock in Gieckie's pool. A total of 49 fish were caught (22 females and 27 males) and all were wild.

Egg takes took place on November 12, 19, 26 and 29 to produce a total of 36,918 eggs from 21 females. The males were returned back into the creek. The average egg take from one doe was 1,758 with an average weight of 0.25 grams.

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Sarah Wolfe picked up 500 eggs on January 26th (after the eggs were eyed up and safe to transport) for the annual school program. Schools receiving eggs were Arrowood Elementary, Nanoose Bay Elementary, and Kwalikum Secondary School.

Due to low chum returns, we were only able to receive 52,000 chum eggs from the Puntledge Hatchery. We were the only volunteer hatchery to receive chum eggs. The Puntledge Hatchery manager, Laura Terry, used to be our DFO Community Advisor.

This past year we installed a zip line to transport our gear and fish up and down the steep bank from Giekie's pool. The fish and gear are hauled up on the zip line in a bag hooked up to a set of trolleys and pulled up with a rope and pulley system. We are planning to automate and tweak this system for the next brood stock capture in the fall.

Our funding system has to be looked at this year due to the Marine Store closing and uncertainty of the Tye Club going forward. We have always needed funding from Fish Derbies and donations to maintain, repair, and improve the hatchery and site. The DFO allots us \$5,000 of our yearly maintenance budget of \$10,000+.

This year I hope to raise enough funds for a fish transport tank and perhaps a single axle trailer, as a tank and trailer from DFO is not always available to us when needed. Our existing plastic tank is too small, and it's hard to get fish out from the manhole.

ARCHERY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2022

Nanoose Indoor Range

The range is beginning to see a return to pre COVID numbers. We continue to see a very strong response to having families participate as a whole.

September started off with several families and others on their own getting a start with archery. People found us through both the PQFG website and the Arrowsmith Archers Facebook page as well as through word of mouth. The most common request was for structured lessons for youth. At this time we accommodate this by adhoc coaching at our regular Monday and Wednesday nights shooting. A special thanks to all our regular members that make these new shooters feel welcome and help them in learning the sport. We held an Open House near the beginning of November. The event was very successful with the range being full to overflowing from the 10 AM opening to closing at 3 PM. We advertised the event on the local digital Events Board, on our Facebook Page, and the PQFG website, as well as asking our members to post and share the invitation to their Facebook Pages. Much of the great response was due to our members posting on their social media platforms. We have had several folks join our regular shooting nights from this event.

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We are back supporting the community and promoting the sport of archery by offering lessons and other group events at the Nanoose Range. Part of this has been a set of lessons running 5 consecutive weeks for a local school. This has been a great success with plans now to repeat in years to come. We host 15 to 25 folks at a time and provide equipment and a safe place under experienced guidance to allow for a fun exposure to the sport of archery. These lessons also provide an important revenue stream to the club.

Henry Range

Archers can shoot at this location at three butts from distances up to 60 meters. Maintenance of the butts here remain a challenge for our group. The distance markers have been re-established on either side and the centre. The distances are in meters.

Dorman Range

There are 2 field courses marked out at the Range. Archers walk through the woods following either the markings for the A course or the B course. For safety reasons it is important that the first archers on site post the course they are using so subsequent archers can follow the same course. Shooting both directions is not safe. Each course has approximately 50 shots possible, targets are a mixture of bags, 3D animals, stump shots, and hanging targets.

It is strongly recommended that first time shooters here go with experienced archers and someone familiar with the course. Archers interested in a tour should contact us at the archery contact on the PQFG website.

There is a small group that shoots on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1 PM.

Harry Tutton 3D Shoot

We will host our annual 3D shoot again on the third Sunday in February, this year on the 19th. Last year we used a walk-on format that was successful and received many favourable comments from our guests.

What the Archery Group Needs

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The archery group is, as are most groups, having to refresh our volunteer group and reorganize how we will move forward. Timed rolled on through the “COVID Break” and the numbers of shooters and volunteers dropped off without an influx of new folks as is traditionally the case. Even though numbers are rising, a lot of the newer folks don’t feel confident enough to take on some of the senior volunteer positions.

The biggest need is people who can act as instructors to support our new archers and teach in a group setting. BC Archery Association is trying to develop a level of Coaching training at the Community level. Once this is complete, we will try to develop at least 3 members as trainers at this level