

Parksville – Qualicum Fish & Game Association



Newsletter Update - February 22, 2022

Over the past year, the volunteers in the four sections of our club - Archery, the Marion Baker Hatchery, the Dorman Range, and the Henry Range - have all had to work under the Covid-19 restrictions. As we haven't been holding General Meetings that would normally keep our members informed, the four sections have prepared the following reports summarizing their activities and accomplishments through 2021.

ARCHERY REPORT

Submitted by Bob O'Brien

Archery is making a slow but steady recovery from the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. Memberships are not back to previous numbers but they are slowly trickling in. This is reflected across the Province in other clubs and also in the competitive teams.

We have persevered and are able to turn the corner because of the dedication and work of a small group of volunteers.

Archery as a sport has started return to normal, both the BC Indoor and Outdoor championships are tentatively scheduled as well as the Senior Games, to be held in Victoria in September of this year. Ant archers interested should look at the respective web sites or chat with us at the ranges.

We are also seeing more interest from groups wanting to do group events at our indoor range and more inquiries through the website and our Arrowsmith Archers Facebook page, thanks to John Mail for managing that for us.

Dorman Range

At the Dorman Range we continue to provide archery to members on a drop in basis. This range has seen an incredible amount of improvements over the last 2 years. There are a few targets in the open field to practice and "get sighted in". The forested area now sports 2 separate field courses consisting of 3D animal targets, bag targets and for the adventurous some novelty stump shots. The trails are constantly maintained and well marked. As well there always seems to be some adjusting of targets and shooting positions to give each experience a bit of a different feel. There are a few brave souls that even enjoy shooting in the snow.

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All of these improvements and maintenance is the result of the work of a very dedicated few, Terry Fulcher, Don McIlhargey, and Bob Lyford.

By the time of the club's AGM we will have hosted the 2022 version of the Harry Tutton 3D shoot. This will have been one of the first 3D events since the start of the pandemic that has included archers from outside the host club's membership. At the time of writing we were hopeful for success and the start of other events on the Island but did not really know how well this would be attended.

In order to follow Covid-19 protocols we have adjusted the shooting format to eliminate the gathering of folks for announcements and prizes. As well there will be no food service.

Nanoose Indoor Range

Nanoose Indoor Range hosts members and beginners on our regular nights, Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6:00 until 8:00 PM. We provide equipment and coaching as required to get newbies started or to improve your shooting. As of February we have combined the youth and other members to shoot at the same time. Give it a try, the first time is free.

We have made adjustments to our shooting procedures to accommodate Covid-19 safety protocols.

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As our regulars continue to return we are looking to try some fun tournaments. There is also a small group that have that intense look about them as they shoot scores weekly in a Canada wide competition by Archery Canada. Archers wishing to participate should talk to us at the range or email us through the PQFG website.

We have hosted two groups for an introduction session at the Nanoose Range and have booked several more. We expect this business to increase as we get towards our traditionally busy time this spring. We could not do this without people stepping up to help with coaching and managing our guests. Much thanks to Shirley and Steve White, Don McIlhargey, and Michelle Freeth.

Henry Range

Sadly the Henry Range is not being used at this time. The butts have been damaged and require repairs before they are of use. This and a few other fixes and set ups will be scheduled into a work party in early Spring.

From the archery group, remember:

Shoot Strong

Have fun if you can....insist on it

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MARION BAKER HATCHERY REPORT

Submitted by Don Jordan

The Marion Baker Hatchery had a very eventful year, and thanks to a significant volunteer effort we completed numerous projects for the Hatchery:

- Working with support from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Hatchery Volunteers acquired and placed 1350 sandbags in position on the creek bank beside the Hatchery to help repair erosion damage to the bank. The bags weighed approximately 90 lbs each, and hence the volunteers moved a lot of material manually in just one day (90 x 1350 = 121,500 lbs)! The bags were placed into position and staked into the bank soil to add additional stability to prevent slippage. The bag material is specially formatted to allow plants to easily grow through them, this vegetation will act as additional anchors for the bags in place and will assist in rebuilding the creek bank.
- The Hatchery site was re-levelled with crushed gravel to improve the site drainage, as well as to help reduce drainage impacts on the nearby creek bank.
- The Volunteers assembled a donated temporary metal shed in the spring of 2021 to provide additional storage and shelter from the elements.
- The cement pad outside of the office were removed, allowing repairs to the weeping tile and the installation of washed gravel above the weeping tile. In turn, this cement pad was replaced with fresh cement and the remaining load of cement was used to pour a thin floor in the temporary shed.
- Working in conjunction with a local tree removal company, several deadfalls and trees leaning over the property were removed. Given the large number of trees that were found rotting from the inside out, this will greatly reduce the likelihood of future damage caused by trees being blown over, or falling onto tankage, buildings and power/phone lines.
- During the hot dry summer months that significantly lowered the water volume in streams, creeks etc., our volunteers participated in multiple fry rescues attempts from stranded pools in the French Creek and tributaries to varying degrees of success. Capturing fry in the creek bed is a whole different exercise than capturing brood stock in the fall with a gill net!
- With financial help by a donation from the local French Creek Tye Club, the volunteers designed, managed the construction and the installation of 3 new water filtration tanks. These tanks operate on using the principles of retention time as well the use of filter socks to remove any entrained solids, and vegetation from the creek water prior to being distributed to the egg tray banks. This has allowed the site to eliminate the

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use of fibreglass sheets as a filter medium, thereby reducing our impact on the environment and landfill.

While these tanks were being installed, the volunteers added a 4th bank of egg trays (8 trays per bank). For a total of 40 trays at our facility.

In summary, this project allowed the Hatchery to increase the numbers of fry under our care, reduced the average number of eggs/fry per tray as well as improve the water quality of the incoming creek water by reducing the impact of silt and entrained solids thus improving the overall process for the egg maturation cycle.

- The volunteers installed piping to allow the standing tank overflow volumes back to the creek pump sump to help in reducing the silt buildup in the sump over the rainy winter months. As well, a valve was installed on the drain on the standing tank and tied into the overflow line. This has reduced the work effort required to flush the silt out of the standing tank and allowed the volunteers to flush on a regular basis instead of the manual process previously used.

Schools within the local region continued to use the Hatchery as a source of both Chum and Coho fry for the aquariums and education programs. The number of fry distributed were reduced this year compared to historical numbers due to Covid impacts on the schools. We were fortunate to have Ballenas Outdoor Ed. students participate in the Coho egg take this year abet under Covid restrictions. It's always fun to watch these students participate in the various aspects of the egg take and see which students have an interest in the process.

We saw the passing of our dear friend and one of the original founders of the Marion Baker Hatchery this year. Pete Redford provided significant mentorship and guidance to the site through his 32+ years volunteering with the Hatchery.

The Hatchery had another successful year with our Coho brood stock program and Chum fry (received from the Puntledge Hatchery up-island) in releasing 80,000 Chum fry in May followed by the release of 31,790 Coho fry in early June.

We are lucky to have a talented and diverse group of volunteers, who each bring a prospective and unique skill to The Marion Baker Hatchery. Together, they donated an estimated 5200 hours of labour in completing our projects. Great job! We are thankful for their energetic commitment and to another successful year.

DORMAN RANGE REPORT

Submitted by Ron Card

In 2021 the Dorman Range was shut down for Covid 19 until March. When we started up again we had a modest turnout of the regular shooters who enjoyed getting back to shooting trap and skeet. Attendance increased throughout the year as more shooters

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became comfortable with attending the range. The Club Championships were held in the latter part of November. Our champion this year was Bill McNeilly. The Bushwacker King was Jim Simpson.

In April we hosted a group of BSS High School students. Instructions were given on firearm safety, technical aspects of shotguns, and shooting methods. See photos below.

Our first Sporting Clays shoot in 2021 was on October 23 and was limited to 50 shooters. The next Sporting Clays shoot was the “Food Bank Shoot” held on November 27. Attendance was not limited. Everybody had a great time and donated over 300 lbs of food and \$710 to the Food Bank. A big thanks to Mike Fall for his donation of a fresh turkey for the raffle and to John O’Regan for getting the traps in order and setting the course.

We were unable to host our annual Boxing Day family shoot and the New Year’s day shoot due to the flare up of the Omicron variant. However, regular trap and skeet continued with covid protocols in place. The pseudo turkeys (hams) that had been purchased for these shoots were quickly sold off, with a few remaining for Club “turkey shoots”.

Progress continued on the RDN building permits with Ian Beach handling the interface with the RDN and John O’Regan doing most of the construction. (See the bottom photographs) We anticipate that all projects will be completed in 2022. And a thank you to the following people that helped with the “high house” construction and modifications: John O’Regan, Jim Cholin, Keith Thompson, Bob Marr, John McLean, Pat Morphy.

We would like to specifically thank the following people for their efforts for setting up sporting clays equipment and in making the Dorman Range work well: Bob Davenport*, John O’Regan*, Jim Cholin, Andy Lemmon, Bill Kellow, Eddy Liedke, Brian O’Connell, and Dwayne Fujima, as well as Ron Card*, Keith Thompson* and Bob Marr*. The thanks continues for all those people that set out/take down the equipment on our regular shooting days as well as loading the houses with clays.

The people with asterisks after their names are also on the range committee. Thanks everybody.

We are all looking forward to a full year of shooting in 2022. We welcome all members who would like to try clay pigeon shooting.

And a chuckle – I lived in a houseboat for a while, and started seeing the girl next door. Eventually we drifted apart.

A man tried to sell me a coffin today. I told him that’s the last thing I need.

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DORMAN RANGE PHOTOS - Recent to early 2021



Photo 1 – Range 3, early December – this snow did not stop us. Photos 2 & 3 - Range 3, November



Photos 1 & 2 - November
October 23

Photo 3 - Sporting Clays, Range 1,



Photo 1 - Sporting Clays. Range 2, Oct. 23 Photos 2 & 3, Range 3. John O'Regan & companion



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Photo 1 - Sporting Clays, Range 3 Photos 2 &3 - Day before sporting clays a car came careening down the road opposite the range, jumped the ditch, went through our fence, hit the caretaker's car and ended up in the middle of Range 3. It got hauled off.



Photos 1 & 2 - August, Range 2 & 3. This is the type of weather that we would like to see now

Photo 3 - In April, we hosted a group of High School students. Bob Davenport set up the information program on firearm safety and shooting instructions. John O'Regan helped with the instructions.



Photo 1 - The first instruction sheet, out of 9 sheets, for the school kids on safety. We will host another school Group in this coming April.

Photos 2 & 3 - March. The foundations for the skeet "high house" that had to be installed instead of a concrete slab. The new "high house" is waiting for the concrete to cure.

And to finish off with a few more chuckles: (For those people who don't give a darn about how many clay pigeons we break)

If I had a dollar for every girl that found me unattractive, they eventually would find me attractive.

I changed my password to "incorrect" so whenever I forget it the computer will say "your password is incorrect"

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I'm great at multi-tasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

HENRY RANGES

Submitted by Randy Monkman

Achievements

Noise Abatement on 100 range: Sound reduction through raising the berms and adding insulation and siding. Berm material, siding, and most machine time donated, along with considerable volunteer hours.

Mobility Project: Well underway with purchase of larger portable washroom, improved parking at pistol range, concrete walkways underway, power door to be installed along with other improvements.

Improvements: installation of secondary gate (archery range), broom-busting and fire suppression, range drainage started, LED lighting, fencing repairs, resurfacing gravel parking, fencing repairs, additions to security camera systems.

Events 2020 and 2021: Gun Shows in both years were safe, fun, and profitable. Youth Shooting Program saw several training and shooting sessions for the local Girl Guide/Pathfinders. In addition, a general youth shooting event was held in late fall 2021 with a good turnout of parents and young people. When permitted under the PHA orders, regular shoots and Saturday morning events are well attended.

Rentals: Excellent rentals from a variety of uniformed services both federal and provincial, along with private groups (RCMP, DFO, Brinks etc.).

In the Works

Continuing Improvements: cosmetic improvements including paint, landscaping, signage, fence repairs. Continuation of noise abatement measures at all range shelters including insulation and addition to berms when materials are free. Placement of fire-fighting equipment when funds permit.

Major: range drainage with the goal of all-weather, non-gumboot, ranges, storage shed at 50m.

Mobility: completion of concrete pathways to the 100m, installation of powered doorways

Events: resumption of normally scheduled shooting activities, resumption of youth shooting program (dependent on volunteer support), gun show(s)

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Dream Works

- Additional Utility Range: to accommodate archery, shotgun, & additional activities
- Lighting: for after-hours rimfire (.22long only) to expand range usage to year-round, after work/school, youth/family activities
- Wireless: wireless target camera systems

Acknowledgments

Volunteers: The past year has been difficult for everyone but there was an outstanding take-up of tasks by many volunteers. Special mention to Colin G., Bob P., Alex D., Ernie M., Steve H., Kevin., Larry B., Doug Mc., Bill S., Graham A., and others. My apologies if I have missed some names but you know who you are, and we thank you. Also, for the Girl Guide/Pathfinder events, thank you to Katelyn A., and Cortnee M., for demonstrating their exceptional skills to the young people who came out to learn about shooting sports.

Finances: Thank you to the Board members who keep us on task and the spending on track.

Donations: Donations of lumber, fasteners, tools, equipment, and the biggest donation of all, time by a few members.