



PARKSVILLE-QUALICUM FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

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Message from the Vice-President

Rod Wiebe, PQFG Vice-President & Past President

Our club's next AGM will be held on February 26, 2020, during which we will elect a new Board of Directors. Our President's term is up and as current Vice President I would be expected to stand for nomination for President. However, recent health issues have made this impossible, so both the President and Vice President positions will be open for election. Several Directors have indicated they will also be stepping down. Any member can be nominated for a Board position, but a nominee for President must have served at least two years on the PQFG Board *sometime* in the past.

Our club has significant assets that need responsible management. Our Committees are all active and basically run themselves, but they need a solid structure they can rely on to stay on track fiscally. Over the decades, we have been fortunate to have fair-minded responsible folks willing to serve our members and sit on our Board as Directors and Officers. What our members need are Board members willing to offer their skills and who care about all members' interests. I sincerely request that at least some of you reading this message will consider making a commitment to serve our members by standing for election to our 2020 Board of Directors. If you are a veteran PQFG club member with some management or people skills so much the better to serve your fellow fish & gamers. There are many of us that would be willing to advise and assist new Board members, but that are no longer able to hold positions ourselves.

To nominate someone to the PQFG Board, you must complete the [Nomination Form](#) linked here. In addition, the nominee must fill out the [Nominee Expression of Interest, Skills & Experience Form](#). This might seem a bit bureaucratic but it clarifies details applicable to a registered Not for Profit Society. Once completed, these forms can be submitted to any past president in person or by e-mail to rt50@shaw.ca.

Sincerely,

Rod Wiebe

PQFG Events & Announcements

Food Bank Sporting Clays - November 23, 2019

Our annual Food Bank Sporting Clays event will be held at Dorman Range on Saturday November 23rd. Please contact Bob Davenport at davenportb752@gmail.com for more information.

General Meeting/Christmas Social - December 4, 2019

All club members and their spouses are welcome to attend the Parksville-Qualicum Fish & Game Association's General Meeting and Christmas Social to be held on Wednesday, December 4th @ 7 pm at the Parksville Community Centre. A brief General Meeting is to be followed by our annual Potluck Social. Please bring something tasty to share and join us in wishing your friends and fellow members a very Merry Christmas!

2020 Club Membership

Membership renewal is available now, and will be valid from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. Please visit this link to renew online: [PQFG Membership Renewal](#). If you are unable to use the online form, Rick Gammon (Henry Range Caretaker) is processing paper memberships for 2020. Please call Rick at (250) 248-0304.

Upcoming Director's meetings: French Creek Harbour Office meeting room @ 7 p.m.

November 20, 2019

January 15, 2020

February 19, 2020

General Meetings: Parksville Community Centre @ 7 p.m.

(Christmas Social) December 4, 2019

January 22, 2020

(Annual General Meeting) February 26, 2020

**Kwalikum Secondary School (KSS) Dry Grad Fundraiser - U-Cut Firewood
November 23rd & 24th**

KSS 2020 Grads will be selling u-cut firewood permits for wood-cutting 300 m off Memorial Road in QUALICUM BEACH between the transmission lines and the inland highway. This is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Permits range from \$30 per load for a light duty pick-up (Ford Ranger size) to \$60 per load for a double-axle trailer, side rails are extra, see prices below. Saturday November 23 and Sunday November 24, 8 am to 4 pm daily. Entrance at transmission line at Memorial Road between the inland highway the Rupert/Memorial road traffic circle. Highway exit 60 for Qualicum Beach. Proceeds from the permit purchase go to 2020 Dry Grad. Please come out to fill your wood box, support KSS grads, and your community. Chainsaw safety pants or chaps are required. No commercial cutters please. Price list: Light duty truck (Ford Ranger or equivalent) \$30 Truck with short box (5-6 foot box) \$40 Truck with long box (7-8 foot box) \$50 Single-axle Trailer \$30 Double-axle trailer \$60 Add-on firewood rails for box or trailer \$15.

Treasurer's Request

Lynne Bonnell - Club Treasurer

As Treasurer, I am requesting that all committees submit their budget proposals to me by December 28, 2019. On January 7, 2020 there will be a Budget meeting at the French Creek Harbour Office meeting room, and if necessary a follow up meeting there on January 9. The budget will go to the Directors for review and approval at their meeting January 15, 2020, and to the General Meeting January 22, 2020, and the AGM February 26, 2020 for final approval.

Budgets can be submitted by e-mail to lynnebonnell@shaw.ca or in-person.

Thank you.

Vetting and New Membership

Richard Thompson, Past President & Board Member

The subject of sponsorship/vetting of new members was raised at our last General Meeting, and will be discussed at our upcoming General Meeting on December 4th. Membership has grown significantly over the past few years and, while we welcome new members, many current members would like to see some control over this growth, and policy to ensure the safe and respectful use of our facilities. We look forward to your feedback about this idea. Please e-mail info@pqfg.org with your thoughts. The idea has yet to be reviewed by the PQFG Board of Directors.

Ducks Unlimited Mentored Hunt - 2019

By Wayne Pritchard

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Ducks Unlimited Canada Oceanside Chapter and the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Fish and Game Club run an annual Youth Mentored Hunting Program. This program has been running in Oceanside for 7 years. In conjunction with Federal Waterfowl Heritage provisions, this program allows youth between the ages of 12 and 17 to hunt with a licenced adult *without* obtaining their own provincial and federal licenses.

This year's training took place over two weekends. The first day was spent in the classroom and on the trap range to work on hunting ethics, hunting skills, and shooting skills. These fundamentals included: gun safety, familiarity with the regulations, shooting stance, determination of dominant eye, waterfowl calling, the art of decoy spreads, the theory of spotting birds in their habitat, the theory of fair chase, and hunter ethics. Then the trainees and their mentors moved outdoors to the range to gain some practical gun handling skills: shooting live ammunition at moving clay targets, ballistics of shot shells, and practicing appropriate methods of leading the target in order to make contact with a moving bird. The new shooters also learned about a variety of practical shooting scenarios: incoming, outgoing and crossing right and left.

The second day was spent in the field to experience an actual duck and goose hunt. The youth and mentors where divided into 3 groups which rendezvoused and dispersed to at 5 am. Hunting locations were at pre-spotted fields including: a private farm in Qualicum Beach, and Ducks Unlimited properties in Port Alberni and Courtenay where birds had frequented the previous week. Hunting blinds had already been erected and camouflaged, and the youth set up their decoys before awaiting the legal shooting time and the birds. Hunts in all fields produced game.

The field dressing of game birds was demonstrated, and many of the youth had a chance to participate. The windup ceremony took place back at the Dorman Range with a BBQ and presentation of certificates to the mentors and youth hunters. A big thank you to our sponsors: Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Quality Foods, Parksville-Qualicum Fish and Game Club, and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their financial support. An equally important thank you goes out to the mentors and youth participants.



Left: Youth participants and mentors. **Right:** Early morning in the field.



Left: A successful hunt. **Right:** Hunters reveling in their success.

Member Photos - Fall 2019



Mitchel Sudyko - Successful long-weekend near Sayward (Nephew of Jamie and Robert Sudyko).

Please send us your photos and updates of you, your friends, and family engaging in Fish and Game activities! We would love to showcase your outdoor fun!

BCWF Report

Respectfully submitted by Rod Wiebe, PQFG Past President 1992-1998

Last January I reported on the subject of "Waste Generation at Operating Firearm Shooting Ranges." I wrote about a letter our club received from the Ministry of Environment regarding their development of new regulations and a Code of Practice for shooting ranges to follow. The purpose of this project was to help clubs to avoid the extremely harsh fines attached to being found guilty of violations under the Contaminated Site Review and Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR). The BCWF Shooting Sports Committee has had extensive involvement with Ministry officials, but the Code of Practice is yet to be approved.

When it is approved, our club will be responsible for the development of a monitoring and reporting process to be in compliance with these new regulations. It is unclear what the added cost to our range operations will be; this mostly depends on the level of professional services we are expected to acquire to perform said monitoring and reporting.

The cost of compliance with this new Code of Practice will be minimal compared to the potential costs of remediation of the land if we were ever to sell it. Even *with* being exempt from most of the harsh provisions under the HWR, remediation costs could exceed the value of the land itself. If that were the case it would mean the bankruptcy of the club, not an enviable position for an organization with a track record of providing a public service for decades.

Opting for a "Just never move," plan only postpones the inevitable. This strategy may work for now, but it hangs our future members out to dry. Eventually one of our shooting ranges will be forced to shut down, no matter how much we mitigate our noise and contamination issues. Developing a reasonable-cost exit strategy for retiring a shooting range, formulated within the soon-to-be-approved Code of Practice, would leave our club with the resources to continue operation when one of our ranges must relocate. We will need to formulate such a strategy to serve the needs of the next generation of our shooting members.

BCWF Shooting Sports Committee Co-chair, Doug Bancroft, will be speaking on the Code of Practice and future strategies for shooting ranges at the upcoming BCWF Vancouver Island Region meeting in Victoria on December 1st. He is willing to come up

and speak to our members at a General Meeting. I suggest we offer him an invitation, to better understand how to align our club with future challenges we will face.

Marion Baker Fish Hatchery

Submitted by Don Jordan

This Month at the Hatchery

The Marion Baker Fish Hatchery welcomes Laura Terry, our new Community Advisor with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). She will support us in the technical sciences as well as applying for the annual DFO federal funding grant to run the hatchery. Dave Davies our former DFO Community Advisor has moved onto a different role, and we thank him for his support and contribution to our organization.

As we all know, there is ongoing concern regarding salmon stocks in our area. This year when the fish returned to spawn in French Creek they were faced with low water volumes and were therefore a wee bit later making their run. Our volunteers made several attempts to gather adequate levels of COHO brood stock over a two-week period in October, and were successful in capturing 24 males, and 28 females. The returns of these fish showed us that 55% were hatchery raised fish, with the remainder being wild. We now have 45,300 fertilized eggs in our egg trays. We're also expecting to receive 100,000 fertilized Chum eggs from the DFO in December. That will give us a total of 145,300 salmon eggs under our care to steward this season. Given that this is our 35th year in operation, we would like to recognize Herman Vanderbyl who is one of the founding fathers of the hatchery, and is still volunteering. Herman not only helped to build the structure that is the Hatchery, but under his watchful care he mentors new volunteers, and shares his knowledge patiently with others. Herman has helped to raise over a million COHO fry, what a legacy!!!

Call for Volunteers

For those interested in volunteering at the hatchery, we meet every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. for a couple of hours. Anyone who wishes to volunteer is welcomed, and encouraged to arrive on site at that time, no special invitation is required.

Dorman Range Highlights

Submitted by Ron Card

Welcome

We continue with our regular shooting Sundays at 10:00 am and on even-dated Wednesdays at 11:00 am. We also host a Sporting Clays event on the fourth Saturday of each month and this event draws shooters from all over the Island.

We invite anybody who would like to try breaking a few clay pigeons to come out and experience it. We can explain the procedures at the range, arrange for a "loaner" gun, and give you guidance on the handling/shooting of shotguns. We have been happy to see many new faces at the range lately.

New Concrete

Since the last newsletter, the concrete has been poured for additional sidewalks and the replacement of shooting stations on Range 2. This will improve accessibility for those people with mobility problems. MLA Michelle Stillwell had previously arranged for a grant to help us improve accessibility at the range, and some of this money was used for the new sidewalks. A large thank you goes to Bob Marr who arranged for the concrete and finishing work, John O'Regan for the supply and operation of his earthwork equipment, and the various work parties that helped with the excavations, placing of gravel and finishing the back-filling around the concrete.

Sporting Clays - September 28

The weather cooperated and it was a pleasant day. We had 53 shooters. The course was quite challenging, and although the high score was 90 out of 100, the overall scores were much lower, even for the best shooters. And as usual, we thank all those people that helped with the equipment setup and takedown, and for the delicious lunch that was provided.



Left: The introduction and safety talk. **Centre:** Shooters at Station #1. **Right:** Shooters at Station #2.



Left: Shooters at Station #3. **Right:** Shooter at Station #4 watching the birds going into the woods.

Ducks Unlimited Youth Mentoring Program

Recently, we hosted a Ducks Unlimited mentoring program for young people. This is a program that gives young people an introduction to firearms safety, shooting tips and field setup for attracting migratory birds. It culminated with a day of field hunting for ducks and geese. Each youth had a mentor to guide and coach them. There were 12 youth involved, 9 mentors, and for the final hunting day there were an additional 2 field captains and 2 helpers. Special thanks to Bob Davenport for coordinating this event. It was a huge success and the youth hunters will remember this experience for a long time.

History of the Dorman Range (Continued)

"In 1966 or 1967 work began on the Tudor-Style clubhouse, and unlike the firing range

building, it was built using conventionally sawn lumber and acceptable construction principles. The lumber came from logs hauled off the property and taken to a nearby sawmill. Of note is the front door of the clubhouse which came from the Tudor House Inn in Victoria. The lock was not working and was taken to the High School where students put it in working order.” “The project was paid for with money raised by the club members through many projects such as salmon derbies, the annual Fish and Game banquet, the annual salmon barbecue, collecting deer hides and other activities.” “Alex Norman is credited with originating and organizing the entire project. He was a tireless and consistent ‘Work Horse’ throughout the year. Other members working on the project were Admiral Mainguy, Al Wilson (club president), Jack Nayland, [and many others]. . . .” “The official opening of the range took place on Sunday, December 17, 1967 at 10:00 a.m. with the first Turkey Shoot being held to commemorate the occasion.” “1968 saw the laying of the gravel shooting stations for the 16 yard trap. And it didn’t take long to begin establishing a regular venue for various events. That same year the first rifle shoot was held at the range by the Vancouver Island Shooting League. By May 4th the first Junior Firearms Safety Training Program was held under the auspices of the BC Wildlife Federation and the B.C. Department of Recreation and Conservation.”

More to follow in future newsletters!

SPORTING CLAYS – OCTOBER 26

Producing a sporting clays event takes a lot of volunteer help. Fortunately, our Club has quite a few of these people, but we need more to take over when our regular volunteers can no longer do it. Thank you to Brian Connor, Bob Davenport, Bill Kellow, Bob Marr, Keith Thompson, Phil Nugen, John O’Regan, Andy Lemmon, Ed Bowater, and Ron Bocek for helping last month. And thanks to Andy Lemmon and his wife Joanne for putting on a great lunch. Bob also looks after the advertising to all the Clubs on the Island. Apologies to those people whose names I missed, it really does take an army to coordinate and host these events.



Left: Setting up the machines. **Center:** Registration. **Right:** Shooters at Station #5.

We had a good turnout of shooters with about 80 to 85 in the morning and about 70 in the afternoon. Although we tried to make the course a little easier, since the September shoot was quite challenging, the course still turned out rather difficult. The high shooters were our Phil Charlebois (44/50 in the morning and 39/50 in the afternoon) and Jared Earthy, from Alberni (41/50 in the morning and 42/50 in the afternoon).



Left: Shooters at Station #2. **Centre:** Shooter at the sandpit. **Right:** Shooters at Station #7, the warehouse.

See you for our regular shoots, and on **November 23rd for the Food Bank Sporting Clays.**

The report above contains highlights only. Ron's full November Dorman Range Report is available on our website at <https://www.pqfg.org/in-depth-reports/>.

Henry Range News

Submitted by Leonard Fong, Henry Range Committee Member

Hunting Season

There has been lots of activity at the rifle range due to the opening of the various hunting seasons. If any of you hunters are successful, and I am sure there will be some, I would be interested in scoring any antlers or horns and resurrecting the clubs "big game" trophy' just for fun and bragging rights!!!! Please contact me at lenbar80@gmail.com if you are interested.

About the Henry Range

The Henry Range includes both 30 meter and 50 yard Pistol Ranges for pistol and .22 rifle, and a 100 yard Rifle Range. Winter Hours (September 14 to March 31) are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For a detailed Activity Schedule, Range Rules and Etiquette, and descriptions of the monthly activities, please visit the PQFG webpage at <https://www.pqfg.org/ranges/henry-pistol-range/> or <https://www.pqfg.org/ranges/henry-rifle-range/>. You can also call John Willson at (250) 954-3830 or e-mail him at johnwillson@shaw.ca for further information.

Range Access and Membership

To obtain access to the range you must have a current PQFG club membership and pay a yearly range fee of \$35, which gives you a gate key. Keys can be purchased during online membership application at <https://www.pqfg.org/membership/2018-membership-form/> or from the Henry Range Caretaker/Warden, Rick Gammon. Rick is available on site for memberships, keys, and queries every day from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (as well as Wednesday and Saturday mornings) but he requests that you call ahead. Home (250) 248-0304 or Cell (250) 734-3335.

Archery

Nanoose Indoor Range – September to May

Join us on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Nanoose Pentacostal Camp. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to competitive shooters. Your first drop-in is free. Then you will require a current PQFG membership plus pay an annual fee of \$55 to help offset operation costs of the indoor range. This \$55 can be paid online when renewing your PQFG membership, or by cash/cheque at the range. We have equipment on-site for those unsure of sizing or new to the sport. However, the equipment is shared with other new members and may only be available for a short time. There are also certified coaches on site to help develop your archery skills. Most archery nights involve target shooting, and we try to hold an indoor 3D shoot once per month.

Outdoor Archery

Archery is available year round at both the Henry and Dorman Ranges. Access to the Henry Range requires a \$35 annual fee for a gate key. Keys can be purchased online during PQFG club membership renewal, or from Rick Gammon at the Henry Range (see below). If you wish to meet up with other archers, have a tour of the outdoor facilities, or for more information on archery within the PQFG Club, please contact us at arrowsmitharchers@shaw.ca. You can also visit the Archery page on the PQFG website at <https://www.pqfg.org/ranges/archery/> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ArrowsmithArchers/>.

Call for Newsletter Submissions

Do you have material we can include in the monthly newsletter? The PQFG club is looking for your ideas! Please e-mail us at info@pqfg.org. Bouquets/special thanks to club members, photos of your latest fishing or gaming adventure, upcoming events of interest to our club members... please send us your ideas!