



Spring News



FROM The President's Desk

Greetings go out to all our members. Spring is trying to melt away all the winter snow and I welcome you to “Mud Fest 2008”. The membership is looking forward to another great year of shooting and club events.

We have a very dedicated group of people committed to the club, but we are always looking for members to step up and volunteer whatever time and energy they can. Any assistance is gratefully received and as you know, many hands make light work. The next great event that the club is hosting is the BCWF convention. We expect approximately 300 people to come to Salmon Arm and our range. With that in mind, the club will be organizing a work party on the 29th and 30th of March. Let’s get our club cleaned up and show off. I hope to see many of you Saturday, Sunday or both days. And don’t forget, lunch for all our hard-workers will be supplied by the club.

Trevor Holmes, President



WORK PARTY



Saturday, March 29th and Sunday, March 30th at 9:00 a.m. Please come out and volunteer some time to clean-up the range and facilities for the upcoming BCWF Convention. Lunch will be provided.



Big Game Banquet & Dance

By Lionel Aadland

By all reports, if you weren’t at this year’s dinner, you missed out on a very good time. During the evening, I made a point of canvassing the crowd and I had very positive comments from everyone. I continued the survey with the assistance of the crew at Westside Stores, for the next week or two after the dinner. I made frequent stops at the store to see what staff had heard from customers who attended. Was it perfect? No, were there suggestions on ways of improving? You bet, but overall we can all be happy with how it came together.

From not knowing if we would be able to have the dinner this year, a dedicated group of volunteers stepped forward at the November meeting and did a great job.

The following people deserve special recognition for their efforts.

Lionel Aadland – Dinner Chairman

Dave Richmond
Boat Raffle Coordinator

Anne & Peter Rizzi
Prize Collections

Cliff Price


Egon Jespersen
Meat Collection

Mel Arnold
Past Experience

Elton Anderson
“Wise Elder”

To all the rest of you who assisted on everything from raffle ticket sales, liquor ticket sales, set-up/take-down, security, etc. **TAKE A BOW**, you deserve it and your club thanks you for your efforts.

Now for the question everyone wants to know the answer to, how much money did the club make for our efforts? Well, after expenses, we netted a profit of \$ 17,333.35. This money will finance many club and conservation projects in 2008.

Again, a huge round of applause  and THANKS goes out to all the volunteers that donated countless hours.



Afterglow

The annual afterglow and pot luck supper was held on Saturday, March 1st with a happy group of 28 attending. A special thanks again to Cookshack Creations for cooking the turkey and to Elton and Clara Anderson for hosting this appetizing supper.



Membership 2008

2008 memberships and keys are now available.



Show & Tell

Monthly meetings deal primarily with club business, your Directors know they are boring but we also know it is important for club members to know what is happening month to month.

To encourage attendance and to add a bit non business items of interest, we have since last fall introduced the popular “Door Prizes” draws for gift certificates. We have also invited guest speakers from time to time. Well it’s time for another new initiative, “Show & Tell” time.

We know many of you have items stashed away that may either be of interest to other members or have an interesting story attached to it. Don’t lie, we’re not your spouse, we won’t ask that cruel question “so when did you buy that?”

Here’s how it works.

Bring an item, it could be old, it could be new. It could be a firearm, a bow, fishing gear or the newest in GPS technology. It could be a common item but have an interesting history.

All we ask is come prepared to talk about it for up to 5 min., it could be less but we would prefer it wasn’t longer. You don’t need to be fancy, we’re all friends here. After we rap the meeting, be prepared to handle all the unofficial discussion that will follow.

Last month, as a sample demo, Lionel brought a Remington Model 8 rifle, the rifle considered to be the first commercial semi-auto and made in the early 1900’s. What will be at the next meeting? It’s up to you the members to make this an interesting and more entertaining meeting.



A gentle reminder that all members and guests must sign in/log in when using the club facilities. Please remember to use your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER in the sign in books. All Directors may at any time request to see your valid membership card while utilizing the club facilities, so please carry it on your person while using club facilities.



Handgun

Pistol shooters are meeting Wednesday evenings about 7 p.m. for a little informal target practice. Bring any calibre of pistol from .22 to whatever and join us. First one there please start the fire in the warm-up shed, and get the lights going. If you have any questions call Don Schmok at 832-3646. Don't forget your ear-muffs.



Black Powder

Well the Monashee Mountain Men did not wait for Spring to arrive for their first shoot of the year in February, down in Armstrong. It was a well attended and enthusiastic

turnout and was made easy by the fellows who packed the trail down by tramping over it a few times with their snow shoes. Another shoot took place at Salmon Arm and again we had a good turnout. Rolly Blades won and added his name to the MMM monthly win shooting trophy.

The next black powder shoot will be in at the Armstrong range and will be a trail walk. This will be on Sunday, March 16th. Bring your holy black and gray galena and fill the air with whoops, screams and that wonder smoke Please be aware that the May Long Weekend Rendezvous will be sponsored by the Monashee Mountain Men again this year. We expect a pretty good crowd both primitive and plastic. The trail walk is on for the muzzleloader, cartridge, pistol, hawk, knife and smoothbore. A paper shoot and a stake shoot at the rifle range, and a one miss and you are out on the steel animal shoot out to 200 yards as well. There could be a rope strung on an angle down which a balloon filled with water will charge at him or her who will be armed with only a hawk to defend themselves. Hmmm. If we have some cannon they will be fired as well.

The food will be barbequed buffalo as well as the salads and desserts that make a great feed. An auction will be held for a beautiful quilt and other great items. There will also be the blanket prizes that are drawn for. If you want a blanket prize, put one in and get one back. The wood for fire and water are free for the taking. Any trade blankets that you want to put out would be really welcome.



Archery

Indoor Archery is still being held every Wednesday evening at the arena at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to hone their skills or just to stay in practice. Free for all under 16 and \$5.00 drop in for over 16.

The annual shoot is slated for May 31st and June 1st, 2008. Please note that the range will be closed to firearms May 30th, 31st and June 1st. Sorry for the inconvenience fellows, but you could try a change of venue!! For any further information, give Merv a call.

The 4-H Club will be teaching archery to interested youngsters between the ages of 6 – 15. Anyone interested in learning can join the 4-H Club. Contact Debbie Evans at debbie@bc4h.bc.ca or 866-776-0373 or contact Merv for more information.

Congratulations to Ben Shaule. We hear he placed 5th in the BC Winter Games – Archery.



Fish Report

As our local papers have reported, there was a meeting at Gardom Lake Bible Camp February 26th regarding the future of the lake and the perch. It was well attended by about 65 people. Kamloops M.O.E. personnel were there to present their take along with slides on the poisoning of Skmana Lake last fall. Most people agreed that something has to be done because of the ecological effects and other issues. The lake will be closed to fishing soon and studies on the lake will begin this summer as well as discussions with stakeholders. The lake is scheduled to be treated early fall of 2009. Bottled water will be provided homeowners until the lake is clear of rotenone. There was an open floor discussion after the talk and most agreed to go ahead with project. Steve Maricle would need help from our club and others to recover some of the treated fish to prevent the smell from permeating the whole area. Many fish would sink providing valuable nutrient for the surviving invertebrates etc.

The Conservation Office was out and laid several charges. One unlucky fisherman was using bugs for bait and transporting invertebrates from one body of water to another. There was a large road block at the Mennonite Church the day of the Fishing Derby. Two charges of transporting live fish were laid. Monty Bromley fishery officer was on White Lake recently and also laid several charges of fishing two lines, and using barbed hooks.

Another pressing issue is the possible closure of Peel Road in the Gardom Lake area. Some of the residents are concerned with the increased traffic and have lodged complaints with the Ministry of Highways. The Ministry

is looking into the complaints which range from blocking of private driveways to over-enthusiastic partying. The club has sent a letter requesting that we be included in any discussions and decisions made with regard to any closure of public access to the lake. The CSRD will also be investigating public access to many of the lakes this year due to the increased population around the lakes and the decision awarded out in Blind Bay earlier this year.



Fishing Derby

This year's Family Fishing Day was held at Gardom Lake Sunday, March 2nd and sponsored by the Lions Club together with Westside Stores, Sears Salmon Arm, Askew's and Dan's Livebait. There were 186 participants on a beautiful sunny day. There was lots of activity and prizes. The hot chocolate and hot dogs kept the cold



away. A big —“Thank You” to Lionel for using the power auger for holes. Erick Sundmark, Earle Bloom, Julian Kuna, for the great job of directing huge volumes of traffic along Park Lane Rd. and informing everyone about registration etc. Also, Thanks to Al Bianco for helping out the kids and families on the ice with fishing tips and drilling holes.



Habitat Enhancement and Conservation

Work parties planned for the spring and summer of 2008 at Cariboo and Cummins Lake will start Father's Day, June 15th. Cariboo Lake needs the one km. of trail cleared and both picnic tables repaired and painted. Cummins Lake needs the picnic table repaired and painted also. The walkway across the meadow was destroyed by mud boggers and should be replaced. We try to make the work fun by adding some fishing time. All are welcome, young and old. Give Stan a call if you can plan to come.



Wilderness Watch

For those of you that don't know, Dick Ladner has stepped down from the driver's seat of Wilderness Watch. If anyone is interested in joining or helping run the club, contact Hank.

John Ball of D.F.O. contacted Julian Kuna to advise the club that the Crime Stoppers award money delegated to four of our clubs WW members Julian, Carl, Erick, and Hank, in apprehending Alberta poachers at Cooke Creek Pool is now available.

The money that was allocated from D.F.O. (\$1.400) is/was for patrols to Phillips, Skim, and other perch infected lakes.



EASTER SHOOT

Just a reminder about the Easter Egg Shoot On Sunday, March 23rd, 2008. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. with the first shot down range at approximately 10:00 a.m. Limit of 25 entries. For further information, call Tony. Bring your food and drink and have a good time.



Shotgun News

Trap meat shoots are held the 1st Sunday of every month with a catered lunch after.



The Federation is continuing to support the treatment of lakes to remove "invasive species" and plans are to treat at least 2 more lakes this year. Local reps. have provided input to MOE staff in Kamloops on changes to the hunting regulations.

The BCWF continues to monitor First Nations Treaty issues and have now been asked to participate in the treaty process which had been closed to all except First Nations and the Provincial government for the last few years. The Federation is working with the Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC on some new directions aimed at increasing family participation and has asked the government to implement online hunting licenses to parallel the online fishing licenses which are now available.

One emerging issue that is of great concern is the application of native bands in the north to have access closed to all non-natives to a large portion around Williston Lake for the duration of the hunting season. We will need all members to speak with a strong voice and possibly dig into their wallets to defend our opportunity and access.

The next regional meeting will be held May 25 in Merritt following a club social shoot at the Nicola Range on the 24th. This social will be similar to the one held in Salmon Arm last August and should be great time.



Convention HELP

How much do you enjoy using the range, or going fishing or hunting around the province? Do you want your kids to be able to enjoy the same opportunities? If you want these benefits to continue then we need your help. With the BCWF AGM & Convention coming to Salmon Arm April 9th -12th we have an opportunity to make our club one to be proud of. Approximately 150 provincial delegates, plus another 150 guests and government staff will be coming to see what we've got. We need help in putting on a successful event to support the Federation in the work it does on behalf of club members all year long. Whether it's getting firearms laws changed or fishing lakes protected, it all takes time and money and that has to come from members and clubs.

As soon as the snow melts we can start with a cleanup of the range and clubhouse. The dates for the cleanup are March 29th and March 30th. As members we know we have an incredible facility, so let's make sure it's looking

110% for the convention club dinner on April 10th. Tickets will be available within a week and helpers will be needed to setup tents, help run some of the events and just be good hosts to our visitors. Please come out to the meeting on March 20th to see how you can help or contact **Trevor Holmes 832-4105, Mel Arnold 832-7538 or Bill Butchart 832-9903**. By helping out you will get a chance to meet some really great people from around the province and maybe get an invite to take your family on a fishing, hunting or shooting trip to someone else's backyard. There's no better way to meet people with the same interests and goals.

We also need help with donations to the Friday Night Fundraiser at the Curling Rink. This is the largest fundraising event for the Federation all year and we are hoping to have about 500-600 people attending. With that many guests we need to have merchandise and prizes to keep them happy. Clubs around the province are sending goods but we need to make an extra effort locally. It is a perfect opportunity for local businesses, resorts and fishing lodges to get provincial publicity, targeted directly at a crowd that will be interested in what they have. If you have connections to anyone who might consider contributing a prize please contact the members listed above with information.

The convention organizing committee will be meeting again near the end of March (date to be determined) to finalize plans so if you can't make the club meeting on the 20th please contact the people above for more information on how you can help.



BCWF CONVENTION/AGM

Thursday April 10th we will be hosting a Convention Club night with shooting events starting late afternoon, dinner of BBQ Chicken and Ribs, Buffalo Chili and all the fixin's and a social time afterward. Tickets are \$20 each and will be available any day now.

Friday April 11th is the BCWF Fundraiser night at the Curling Rink. BBQ Buffalo and BBQ Beef on a bun along with all the salads etc. is on the menu as well as game sausage and smoked fish for appetizers. Tens of thousands worth of prizes and merchandise will be raffled, auctioned and given away throughout the evening including a Halibut Fishing Trip off Vancouver Island, a Houseboat Vacation Package, Hunting Trips, rifles, fishing gear and lots of prizes for the ladies as well. Tickets are \$25 and should be purchased well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Saturday April 12th at the Prestige Inn the BCWF Awards Banquet will feature a wild game and fish dinner with donations to the dinner coming from all over the province and coast. This event was extremely popular in Penticton two years ago and will have a huge variety of tastes prepared by the new and talented chef at the hotel. Tickets for the Awards dinner are \$35 and well worth it.

All three of these days will see the convention meetings underway at the Prestige Inn and these are open to club members who want to drop in see what the Federation does for members across the province. Lunch tickets can be purchased from the BCWF Registration desk as well. There may never be a better opportunity for local members to take part in some or all of the events so get involved early and enjoy meeting other active members.



Meetings

Director's meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Members are welcome to come and observe.

General Members Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Come out and get a chance at a gift certificate, courtesy of Westside Stores. Don't forget to thank them for their generous ongoing support. Come and see what the door prize is....



Gun Issues

The following except was taken directly from Breitkreuz's website.

Statistics Canada confirms firearms and violent crime not linked

Ottawa – Saskatchewan M.P. Garry Breitkreuz says a new Statistics Canada study proves that hunters and sport shooters have nothing in common with violent criminals. Breitkreuz started his fight against useless gun control laws in 1994 and part of that fight has been to relentlessly expose the truth about the relationship between violent crime and guns.

Last Wednesday, Statistics Canada released its study for 2006 entitled: *Firearms and Violent Crime* (see link below). It reported that firearms were used in only 2.4 percent of all violent crime in Canada in 2006. It also reported that handguns (that are supposed to have been registered since 1934) made up nearly two-thirds of all firearms used. CanWest news summarized the Statistics Canada report this way: "In 2006, three-quarters of all violent crime victims were attacked by people without any weapons at all. Knives, clubs and other blunt instruments were used against 9.2 per cent of victims, while guns were used against only 2.4 percent. Knives were used to commit more murders, robberies, sexual assaults and assaults than guns."

"In December 2006, I released unpublished Statistics Canada tables showing that of the total homicides committed between 1997 and 2005, only 2.27 percent were committed with a registered gun," explains Breitkreuz. "Only 1.21 percent were committed with a firearm registered to the accused murderer, and 2.14 percent were committed by a person that held a valid firearms licence (see link below). Obviously, law-abiding gun owners aren't the problem and yet the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto want to ban the handguns owned by honest citizens.

"Why is there a Liberal, NDP and Bloc preoccupation with guns owned by citizens that aren't the problem?" asks Breitkreuz. "Remember that 102 of 108 handgun homicides (94 per cent) in 2006 were committed with

unregistered handguns or the registration status was unknown. We need mandatory minimum sentences for using weapons in violent crimes. Knife and club attacks occur at a rate almost four times higher than guns.

“That’s why the federal government introduced Bill C-2, our *Tackling Violent Crime Act*,” he adds. “Statistics Canada tables also show that knives and clubs result in more injuries than guns (see link below). This study makes it obvious that we need all governments to focus on the real problem of violent crime and especially target those criminals that use any type of weapon in the commission of an offence.”

Statistics Canada Study: Firearms and violent crime 2006

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/080220/d080220b.htm>

December 7, 2006 - 5,194 homicides 9 years: Only 2.27% of guns were registered

<http://www.garrybreitkreuz.com/breitkreuzpress/2006/dec7.htm>

March 3, 2005 – Liberals’ total focus on guns is misguided

<http://www.garrybreitkreuz.com/breitkreuzpress/guns136.htm>

AND... this from CTV news.....

The Liberals are accusing the Conservatives of allowing long gun owners to circumvent Canada's gun registry laws.

They say the Tories are using "back door tactics" to again extend an amnesty for long guns.

"This government's latest extension of the gun amnesty is killing gun control in this country by stealth," said Liberal Public Safety Critic Ujjal Dosanjh.

Last November, the government reintroduced a bill to kill the controversial registry for rifles and shotguns.

The Liberals say the Conservatives are unwilling to debate the issue in the Commons and have instead submitted the latest proposed regulations in the *Canada Gazette*, the official newspaper of the Canadian government.

"Instead of putting the future of gun control to an honest vote in the House of Commons, they are achieving the same ends through back door tactics like sweeping amnesties and funding cuts."

The measure would push back an amnesty originally issued in 2006. An extension set to end later this spring could now be in effect until May 16, 2009.

An amending order listed in the *Gazette* states that during that period a communications strategy would be used to clarify "any confusion among firearms owners regarding their legal obligations ... Concurrent messaging would clearly outline the criteria which firearms owners must meet, both before and after May 2009, in order to comply with the Firearms Act, and the consequences for failing to do so."

The Liberals accuse the Conservatives of hurting legitimate firearms owners.

"The secrecy and lack of clarity surrounding the government's true agenda has led over 100,000 gun owners to allow their licenses to expire. Legitimate owners deserve honesty and clarity from this government," Dosanjh said.



Helloooo.....

If you have an email address and you didn't get the electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to safishgameclub@hotmail.com If you changed your email address, kindly let me know the new one and we will update the mailing lists.

This saves the club a ton on postage, photocopying costs and my volunteer labourers that stuff the envelopes.

If any of our members have any suggestions for the next newsletter, let me know.

Thanks Anne