



NELSON DISTRICT ROD & GUN CLUB

Mailing Address: PO Box 16, Nelson, BC V1L 5P7
Indoor Range & Clubhouse: 801 Railway St, Nelson BC
Outdoor Range: 124 Porto Rico Rd (off of Hwy 6), Nelson BC
Website: www.nrgcbc.ca
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NelsonDistrictRodAndGunClub/?ref=br_rs

Newsletter February 2021



President's Message Howie Grant

SHEEP FEEDING PROGRAM:

Winter has finally arrived, as have the sheep. Although a little later than past years, the snow has now accumulated enough that the herd is staying close to the feeding site. As of Jan 20, the numbers are 15 animals consisting of 4 rams, 9 ewes and 2 lambs. This is down slightly from last year.

Predators (wolves / cougars) and traffic interaction continue to be the biggest challenges faced by this herd. Volunteers are consistently checking for predator tracks each time they go up to the site as well as evidence of traffic incidents.

The sheep are fed every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, usually between 10 am – 12 pm, depending on the road conditions.

RULES:

- They have a very strict diet and visitors to the site are asked not to feed them anything from home.
- no dogs or pets at the site
- no sudden movements if the sheep are close to you.
- enjoy the moment - it is a great COVID stress reliever.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this program, please contact me. Howie Grant 250-551-1077



Salt blocks for the sheep.



Alan Bond sporting his Dr. Bonnie Henry t-shirt as he navigates through the Public Health Orders for gatherings and events.

PAL/RPAL/CORE training courses update:

The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Henry, order's regarding Province-wide restrictions (January 8, 2021) generally and specifically the Gatherings and Events Order (December 24, 2020) require us to reschedule all PAL/RPAL/CORE training scheduled in January and February.

Although Dr. Henry's orders are set to expire on February 5, that is enough of a disruption to require the courses for the rest of February to be rescheduled as well.

The current restrictions have to return to pre-November 19 (midnight), 2020 Province-wide restrictions for us to resume classes. We were all hoping that the November 19 order would not be extended when scheduled to expire on January 8, 2021. This schedule is in anticipation that we will return to earlier level of restriction before March.

This note covers 3 things: the new schedule of classes and new classes scheduled, your options and a request by students to exchange seats for work reasons.

1. New Schedule:

Existing classes

PAL

Old date - new date

January 30 is now March 7 course

January 31 is now March 27 course and will also have two instructors so the double class can stay intact.

March 6 stays March 6

RPAL

Old date - new date

February 27 is now March 28 but there are two instructors available so there is more capacity. If an opportunity arises, we will hold a few seats that come available in the earlier PAL courses to accommodate potential RPAL students.

CORE

Old date - new date -

February 6/7 is now April 17/18 course

New classes not previously scheduled:

PAL

May 8 Saturday (Mother's Day May 9)

June 6 Sunday

CORE

June 12/13 - the 4 students from the March 6 PAL course that were put on the "Interested in CORE" list have been registered in this class.

2. Options:

- Students can stay in the revised schedule course as outlined above.
- Students can chose to register in one of the May or June PAL classes.
For example, those registered in the June 12 CORE class
(all currently in the March 6 PAL) may consider this option as it would help out potential RPAL students requiring a PAL prerequisite.
- Students can request to be put on a waitlist for an earlier class but there is no guarantee the default would be to stay in your current class, if we need an earlier PAL. All students will be scheduled into one of the classes (either existing or new) if they choose a waitlist.
- IF none of the above options can accommodate your situation, we will offer a full refund of course fees until the end of January. As of February 1 we will revert to the typical practice of refunding a reduced amount. The minimum cost to withdraw is \$25 or whatever amount is needed to cover course costs ie. maybe higher if we can't cover minimum instructor fee. Occasionally the refund amount is not known until after the course is over.

3. Student requests

There have been requests to accommodate work situations and one is still outstanding. There is a couple that have been rescheduled to a normal work day for them (Saturday) and are hoping to exchange their seats in the March 27 class for seats in the March 7(Sunday) class. We have one volunteer at this writing (thanks Chris), we are looking for one more.

Some folks are on this distribution list as they paid for the students, as well, there are a number of partners/housemates that are not on the distribution list. Please ensure the students you know are registered in any of these courses are aware of this information. As of February 1 the class lists we have will be considered accurate for the purposes of who has seats and/or refund requests.

There are still some CORE manuals available to borrow from the club. These will have to be returned on the final day of the CORE course. After the April 17/18 CORE course, the manuals will be available to loan

for the June 12/13 CORE course. Manuals for PAL and RPAL are not required for the course but are available on line as a free download.

Finally, I would request folks pay for their courses within 60 days of their scheduled dates as there is a fair bit of interest.

If you can accommodate the March 7/27 swap or if you have any questions feel free to contact me at 250 352-2289.

The Predator-Prey balancing program:

During 2019 the West Kootenay Outdoorsmen (WKO) ran a program directed toward moving toward a balance between the number of predators and the number of prey in the West Kootenay.

It consisted of a payment of \$500 toward the expenses incurred by a hunter or trapper, member of a West Kootenay club, who killed a wolf in the West Kootenay. During the year sixteen wolves were certified to have been taken.

During 2020 the virus has upset many activities but it is obvious that there remain numerous wolves in the West Kootenay. Our ungulate population is in dire straits. If wolves – and cougars – are unable to find their preferred food animals, they will turn to alternate prey, or starve, or leave the area. I've seen photos of five wolves taken recently in St. Mary's and three more from Goat River. Other packs haunt Proctor, Crescent Valley, you name it.

At this time the WKO is likely to resume the program, with the payment for expenses set at a \$250 level per wolf.

The WKO clubs are being asked to contribute to the fund backing this program. It is also something that anyone can do – I have two personal donations of \$250 each already from individuals who are concerned at the scarcity of ungulates in the West Kootenay. You are invited to join with your contribution! Also, or alternatively, try wolf hunting. It's very challenging!

It is true that there are other predators in the area. They present problems – cougar are under a quota system and are difficult to hunt without trained dogs to tree them. They also require a previously-purchased tag and there are other restrictions as well. Grizzly bears are not open at any time. Black bears have seasons, a bag limit, and a tag requirement. Let's not even mention wolverine, bobcats, lynx, coyotes, and eagles.

The Province of BC is responsible for wildlife management but has essentially abdicated its duty. Managing to zero is a phrase that comes to mind. There is no political appetite in Victoria for managing predators, and in fact the position of the province is that our elk, deer, and moose are on their own with no protection from the province.

The next time you see a wolf pack, think about how many deer, moose, and elk those animals will kill during the next twelve months. When you see a cougar, you are looking at up to fifty-two dead deer over the next twelve months – if they are available, of course.

Richard Green, WKO Treasurer

Archery News:



Indoor Improvements, 3D Plans, and Fundraisers:



Thank you to **Wes Smith** for changing out the lights in the archery range with daylight bulbs and for creating protection for these new lights for stray arrows. Wes has also improved the target stands.

Greg Seidelin has installed additional bow hanging hooks and created a chalkboard on the wall for scores and notices.

3D Plans: We are moving ahead with planning the 3D Shoot. Of course, this is all dependent on the Public Health Orders, as we have seen with the PAL, RPAL, and CORE courses. The dates, June 5 and 6 with prep days June 3 and 4, need to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Fundraisers:

We collaborated with **Oso Negro** to create an **Archers Blend**. The coffee will be ready for those people who ordered it on Groundhog Day.

There was a request for an archery baseball cap. To the right is the mock up. Price is \$25. They are due to arrive on March 13, 2021. Hopefully, we can put away our toques and don a new archery cap. Pre orders can be made to Annette:

annette.spanky.smith@gmail.com



Nelson District Rod & Gun Club

Ongoing Events:

Events could change depending on recommendations by the PHO.



Indoor Archery:
Refer to "Shared Calendar" for dates and times.






Social Gaming:
Sunday 4-9pm
Thursday 5-10pm



Ladies' Target Shooting:
Thursday at 6:00pm
Contact: Anita Bowers



BOD: Board of Directors

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  BOD Meeting	3	4 	5	6
7 	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18  	19	20
21  Valentine's Day 	22	23	24	25  	26	27
28 	29	26	27	28  		

Ladies' Target Shooting: ladiestargetshooting.nrgc@gmail.com

Indoor Gun Range: <http://www.nrgcbc.ca/indoorange/>

Indoor Archery Range:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=ZWw2Y3JuZWxsZTA0dnJraGYwdnE0MnQ0NThAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ229vZ2xiLmNvbQ>

Who Can Help?

EXECUTIVE	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	PAST PRESIDENT	TREASURER
	Howie Grant 250-551-1077 hhgrant@telus.net	Richard Green 250-352-5609 scaler4@telus.net	Wally Kampen 250-354-4349 wally.k@shaw.ca	Yolanda Manalo-Stewart Contact: Richard Green
DIRECTORS	Marvin Paisner Cottonwood Creek Indoor Firearm Range 250-229-5710 paisners@shaw.ca	Glen Mcken Fishing Forever/Cook 250-505-5006	Howie Grant Police Liason/Bighorn Sheep Volunteer Co. 250-551-1077 hhgrant@telus.net	Melissa Townsend mtownsend811@gmail.com 250-551-8207
	Wally Kampen Conservation: Environment/Fish & Wildlife/Website/Hall Maintenance/Edward Jones Acct. 250-354-4349 wally.k@shaw.ca	Richard Green Fishing Forever/Key Master/Corresponden ce/ Edward Jones 250-352-5609 scaler4@telus.net	Alan Bond Nelson Italian Cdn. Society/Hall Rental/Club Historian/Edward Jones Acct. 250-352-2289 hallrental@nrgcbc.ca	Andrew Woodward Project Mapleseed nelsonmapleseed@pm.me 250-551-5050
	Brian Beaudoin Trap Range/Ladies Shooting 250-551-4549 brian.kootrac@gmail.com	Naz King Outdoor Range 250-354-3335 nazyking@gmail.com	Warren Russell Outdoor Archery 250-551-7562 warren@WSRussell.ca	

COORDINATORS

Anita Bowers	Ladies' Shooting	250-354-2998	ladiestargetshooting.nrgc@gmail.com
Erin Franklin	Membership	250-551-7414	membership@nrgcbc.ca
Annette Smith	Newsletter/3D Archery Shoot Communication	250-505-2912	newsletter@nrgcbc.ca
Wes Smith	Indoor Archery/3D Archery Shoot	250-304-7521	wes.smith@shaw.ca
Alan Thompson	Cottonwood Creek	250-505-5376	alant2@telus.net
Al Walker	Security	250-352-9752	arwalker@telus.net
Jim Brown	Trap	250-352-3933	jandjbrown604@gmail.com
Vacant	Gun Show		
Calvin Hacking	Social Gaming		calvin.hacking@gmail.com
Derek Ludwar	Recording Secretary	250-505-4433	derekludwar@gmail.com
Frances Brown	Bylaws/Constitution/Policies Edward Jones Acct.		