

**PARKSVILLE-QUALICUM FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION**  
**NOVEMBER – 2019    DORMAN RANGE    -    RON CARD**

**DORMAN RANGE FACILITIES**



**Welcome**

We continue to enjoy our sport as we head into late Fall and early Winter. We have had our fair share of rain lately but it hasn't slowed us down very much. It is "hurry up and shoot and get back under cover".

And our standard, introductory sentences are: We continue with our regular shooting on Sundays at 10:00 am and on even-dated Wednesdays at 11:00 am. As well, we 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 loan you a gun and we will explain the procedures at the range, arrange for a "loaner" gun, and give you guidance on the handling/shooting of shotguns.

"I don't want to say that I'm old and worn out, but I make sure that I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day."

We have been gaining quite a few new shooters lately. The experience of these shooters has varied from non-at-all to considerable. Quite a few of the new shooters had shot earlier in their lives, either with clay pigeons or with duck and grouse hunting, but then they had to give it up due to work and new families. We welcome all these shooters and will guide and help them as much as we can.

"I went line dancing last night. Well, actually it was a sobriety test . . . same thing."

**New Concrete**

Since the last newsletter, we have had the concrete poured for additional sidewalks and for concrete replacement of the shooting stations on our Range 2. This will help the accessibility for those people that have mobility problems, and as well, it will help all shooters and their

audiences. The cost of the sidewalk portions was covered by the remaining grant for handicap accessibility that our MLA, Michelle Stillwell, arranged for us.

“I have come to the conclusion that I’m a reasonably intelligent person who does moderately stupid things on a semi-regular basis.”

The earthworks were done in the first week of September, the formwork was done in the second week of September, and the concrete was poured in the third week of September.



**Concrete sidewalk** next to the Club House – earthworks, formwork & poured concrete



**Shooting Station #2** – earthworks, formwork & poured concrete



**Shooting Station #2 Close-up** – earthworks, formwork & poured concrete

And a very large thank you 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 backfilling around the concrete.

“Being cremated is my last hope for a smoking, hot, body.”

### **Sporting Clays on September 28**

We held our sporting clays event on September 28. We had 53 shooters. The weather cooperated and it was a pleasant day. The course was quite challenging, and although the high score was 90 out of 100, the overall scores were much lower, even for the good 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

“I should stop drinking but I am not about to listen to some drunk that talks to himself.”

We are now arranging the October sporting clays event. See below for details. As usual, these sporting clays events attract shooters from many areas of the Island.

### **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 the migratory birds. It culminated with a day of field hunting for ducks and geese. Each youth had a mentor to guide them and coach them. There were 12 youths involved, along with 9 mentors, and for the final hunting day there were an additional 2 field captains and 2 helpers. See the report below for details of what transpired for this program. Thanks to Bob Davenport for coordinating this event.

The event was a huge success and the youth hunters will remember this experience for a long time.

### **Ducks Unlimited Report as provided by Wayne Pritchard**

2019 Mentored Hunt, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Oceanside Chapter and the Parksville Qualicum Beach Fish and Game Club through a Memorandum of Understanding run an annual Youth Mentored Hunting program in conjunction with the Federal Waterfowl Heritage provisions of the hunting regulations which allows youth between the ages of 12 and 17 to hunt with a licenced adult without obtaining their own provincial and federal licenses. This program has been running in Oceanside for 7 years. This year's training took place over two weekends, September 29 and October 5. The first Sunday consisted of a day in the classroom and on the trap range to work on hunting ethics, hunting skills and shooting skills. The second Saturday was a day in the field to hunt ducks and geese.

Day one in the classroom included the fundamentals of hunting such as; 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 with their mentors moved outdoor to the range to gain some practical gun handling skills, shooting live ammunition at moving clay targets, ballistics of shot shells, practising appropriate methods of leading the target in order to make contact with a moving bird.

Our shooting trainer helped the new shooters to become familiar with a variety of practical shooting scenarios, incoming, outgoing and crossing right and left. The mentors coached the youth shooters in safety, leads, proper shooting stance and gun features. Day two was a day in the field to experience an actual duck and goose hunt. The youth and mentors where divided into 3 groups and car pooled to various prespotted fields a private farm in Qualicum Beach, Ducks Unlimited properties in Port Alberni and Courtenay where birds had been frequenting the previous week. At 5 am the groups rendezvoused and dispersed to the various fields where

hunting blinds had been erected camouflaged where they set up decoys, awaiting the legal shooting time and hopefully the birds. Hunts in all fields produced game.

The field dressing of game birds was demonstrated and the youth in most cases had a chance to participate. The windup ceremony took place back at the Fish and Game Club Range with a BBQ and the presentation of certificates to the mentors and youth hunters. A big thank you to our sponsors, Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Quality Foods, Parksville Fish/Game Club and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their financial support. An equally important shout out to the mentors and youth participants. Another great year for the wonderful sport of waterfowl hunting.



**Left:** Photo of the youths and mentors **Centre:** Youths, early morning in the field **Right:** A successful hunt



**Left:** Youth hunters revelling in their success **Centre:** Cabela's provided funding from their Outdoors Fund **Right:** Just a pretty rainbow emanating from all our shooters that live in this area of Beachcomber.

“Dear Wine – We had a deal. You were to make me funnier, sexier, smarter and a better dancer. I saw the video . . . . We need to talk.”

**Dorman Range History** (continued from previous Newsletter. Description is taken from a published book.)

“This range was initiated by the Qualicum District Fish & Game Club and the lot was bought in October 1965 with a government grant. Before this, a nearby gravel pit was apparently used as the range. This was before the Qualicum District Fish & Game Club amalgamated with the Parksville Club.”

See the previous newsletter for some earlier details.

“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. 18 more were identified.

“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.”

“Snow was falling at the time but did not prove to be a deterrent to the enthusiastic, more than 50 attendees. The committee organizing the shoot consisted of Al Wilson, Bob Kerr, E.R. Mainguy and Bob Smart. Winners of the various prizes can be read on the reproduced article from the Parksville- Qualicum Beach Progress at the end of this Chapter.”

“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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

“If 4 out of 5 people suffer from diarrhea, does that mean that one person enjoys it?”

“If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?”



**Photos published in the previous newsletter**, of the first firing range shelter for rifles and handguns.

“If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?”

**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 make it.

We used to set up the Sporting Clays stations early on the Saturday morning. This meant that we were always being rushed, trying to get everything in place by the starting time of 10:00 a.m. We now do the set up of the throwing machines on the Friday morning. This also includes stocking the houses at the various stations with the clay pigeons.

For the set up for this Sporting Clays we would like to thank Brian Connor, Bill Kellow, Bob Marr, Keith Thompson, Phil Nugen, John O’Regan and Andy Lemmon. And thanks to Andy Lemmon and his wife Joanne for putting on a great lunch. For the take-down of the equipment afterwards we would like to thank Bob Davenport John O’Regan, Ed Bowater and Ron Bochek. Bob Davenport and John O’Regan coordinate the layouts of the machines and Bob looks after the advertising to all the Clubs on the Island. (Mike Fall passes this information on to all the members of the Vancouver Island Sporting Clays Association.) Apologies to those people that I missed.

For the Friday setup it was pouring rain at 7:00 a.m. but by the time that we started setting up at 10:00 the sun had come out and it was a great day. The weather continued sunny for the Saturday shoot also.



**Left:** Setting up the machines at Station #5 **Centre:** Trucks loaded with cases of clay pigeons and waste cardboard **Right:** Setting up the machines at Station #4 which has the elevated berm

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:** This was a welcome event for first thing in the morning. Thanks, Darren. **Centre:** Shooters lining up to register for the sporting clays. **Right:** Bob gives his standard introduction talk to the participants.



**Left:** Shooters at Station #1 **Centre:** Shooters at Station #2. **Right:** Shooters at Station #3



**Left:** Station #3 in the afternoon **Centre:** Machines set up at Station #4 **Right:** Shooters at Station #5

“If Fed Ex and U.P.S. were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?”  
“Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?”





**Left:** What the sandpit looks like as Station #6 **Centre:** Shooter at the sandpit **Right:** Shooters at Station #7, the warehouse

“You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.”

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