



# SHERWOOD PARK FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

**F a l l 2 0 1 0**

### **Inside this Issue:**

President's Report/ Calendars	2
Spring Work Party 2010	3
Association Conservation Projects	4-5
Memberships	6-7
Membership Application	8
In Pursuit of the Goose	9-10
Range 'Stuff'	11
Calendar of Events	12



## *President's Report*

*August 2010*

*Richard Rothwell, SPFGA President*

Hello! Summer is in full swing, school is out, kids are at home and summer trips and vacations are sure to happen.

Activities at the range property are also busy. Renovations to the Clubhouse are finished. The kitchen was renovated with new counter top and cabinets, repairs to plumbing are underway and the exterior has a new coat of paint.

Special thanks to Gaetan Richard, Ken Sobkiw, Bob and Deanna Loewen and others for organizing and helping out with these improvements.

The Spring Work Party was a success even if the weather was uncooperative. We had a turn out of 40+ people to clean up the ranges, clubhouse, fell trees and split firewood, and

lay forms for concrete pads on the overflow and handgun ranges in the rain and snow.

Thanks to Elaine and Tassi Xenos, Bernie, and Walter Domytrak's wife for preparing lunch and dinner for the hungry volunteers.

In mid May the monument recognizing the volunteer efforts of past presidents and life members was dedicated. Attendance was really good with 40-50 people at the ceremony. A good time was enjoyed by all to visit and recall past events. We were especially honored to have Reg Gray and his wife Olive present. Reg was one of the founding members of the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association in 1962.

*('President's Report' continued on page 2)*

*When he was young, I told Dale Jr. that hunting and racing are a lot alike.  
Holding that steering wheel and holding that rifle both mean you better be responsible.*

***Dale Earnhardt***

## President's Report August 2010 ... continued.....

(' President's Report' c ontinued from page 1)

Work continues at the range this summer. By the time you read this newsletter work on shooting shelters to the new overflow and handgun ranges will be completed. Water levels in the Fish Pond have been restored to normal levels with the rainfall and pumping of water from nearby sloughs. The video surveillance system should be in full operation by summer's end with cameras at the shotgun, rifle, handgun ranges and at the gate. Improvements to the archery trail are also planned for this summer with the construction of an elevated shooting platform.

This summer 4000 spruce seedlings will be planted on the range property as part of the Woodlot Management Program being developed to maintain forest cover and habitat into the future. Gordon Kerr our Black Powder Chair is the leader in this endeavor and our stewardship monitoring program of the Sherwood Park land trust property. As August approaches the ranges will start to get extra busy as members get ready for the hunting season. Traffic at the ranges on weekends will be busy. SPFGA membership for this year will equal or exceed last year's record of 2600+ members. One way to avoid the rush is to start earlier and if you can shoot on a weekday.

In closing, remember our first general meeting is "Hunters Night" at the ACT Center in Rundle Park on September 9, 2010.

Rich Rothwell



The next newsletter will be out on November 1, 2010.

If you would like an article included in the NOVEMBER Newsletter, please submit to Bob Chapman by OCTOBER 15, 2010.

**2010 CALENDERS FOR SALE**

**\$10.00**

**Please contact Richard at**

# Range Improvements

## SPRING WORK PARTY 2010

Thanks to the 40+ volunteers who braved the wet snowy weather to come out May 29 to help at the Annual Spring Work Party. We got a lot of work done under such poor conditions. Your help and time was much appreciated. Special thanks to Elaine and Tassi Xenos for preparation of lunch and dinner and clean up afterwards.

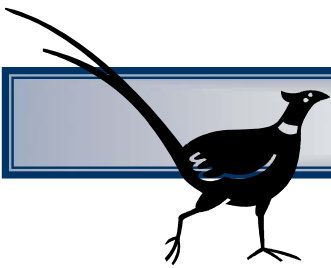


Dave and Tina Zum  
Lyll Kortzman  
Lee Horne  
Doug Burton  
Daniel Clow  
Tassi and Elaine Xenos  
Sheldon Saskiw  
Fred Blondel  
Richard Buchko  
Nikola Milic  
Bernie and Carl Buetner  
Paul and Ann Morck  
Pete Beauvais  
Paul Beauvais  
Larry Hurrell  
David Cameron  
Ken Sobkiw  
Ron Simpson and Family  
Chris Weintz  
Bob Chapman  
Les Berry  
Part Harris  
Wayne Gardner  
Jacqui and Chris Drummond  
Brain and Brenda Simmonds  
Robert and Deanna Loewen  
Harry Roch  
Chad and Mitchel  
Les Fitz  
Daniel Farrer  
Dave Cameron  
Reg Perras  
Jim Clarke  
Gaetan Richard  
Paul Richard  
Daniel Verhoeff

My apologies if I left someone out in the above list, or misspelled a name.

*Rich Rothwell*





## Association Conservation Projects

The SPF&GA has two conservation projects on the lands which we own or manage.

The first one got underway three years ago when the Alberta F&GA asked for volunteer stewards to look after the ¼ section of land that they (and others) acquired. Seven members of our Association signed up for the job. Our task is to occasionally walk through the property to ensure that motor vehicles (including ATV's, snowmobiles, etc) are not being used, and that grazing or other damage is avoided. The results have been good with not evidence of motor vehicle use since the first year. One reportable inspection is requested each year, and the 2010 has not as yet been completed. With grass up to your waste or higher it is no joy to be walking around with all the rain we have been having. Each time since the middle of May when it starts to look favourable, it rains again. We will keep watching the weather forecast.

The second project is the Woodlot Management Plan (or habitat plan). Minimal tours of the property have been made and a rough plan drafted. Our objective has been proposed to develop a diverse vegetation complex which will tend to ensure biological diversity throughout the area.

Some clear-cuts were undertaken with the NAIT Forestry students some years ago. These are now nicely regenerating in a young robust aspen forest. Plans are to remove over mature and dying trees in more blocks in the ¼ section east of the



gun range as well as around the camp ground. A number of large trees are presenting a hazard in this latter location. Campers on a couple of occasions were lucky the trees missed their trailers. Harvest will also be done around the Black Powder Trail as old and dead trees are a problem with trail maintenance and hazel bush is strongly invading the area. It is hoped some of this cutting can occur this winter of 2010-11.

The Association invested \$1,000 to buy 4,000 spruce seedlings from the Woodlot Association of Alberta. We were approved as a member who would have the seedlings planted at no cost to us. To have 4,000 trees planted in the ground for \$0.25 is a magnificent bargain. It is expected that they will be planted in the last week of July or first week of August in the area east of the range.

In an effort to monitor biodiversity before, during and after habitat/woodlot harvesting and regeneration we arranged for bird surveys to be conducted this

( ' Conservation' continued on page 5)

If you wish to nominate a member you feel deserves special recognition for their contributions to the SPF&GA during 2010 please submit their name and details to

('Conservation' continued from page 4)

spring. Again rain and wind interfered with progress but the three planned surveys were completed. The Wildbird General Store (on 99St just north of the Whitemud Freeway) agreed to supply expert observers and cost share expenses with us. We both let it be known that members and others could join in but were disappointed that so few responded. Only four of our members participated.

A lot of birds were recorded, with 38 species on our first orientation trip on May20, then 43 species, 32 species and 23 species on May 22, June 13 and June 19 respectively. The declining number as spring progressed reflects poor weather and wind but also the fact that as birds nested they reduce their movements and singing declines. By the last survey many waterfowl had moved off the dry wetlands and also left to molting areas elsewhere. We will be earlier in 2011. I will be submitting a more detailed report to our web site in the near future.

The progress of our woodlot plans has moved along well, but slowly. We had hoped to have some inquiries from members but have received very little. We will now move into the next draft of our plan for review and get down to details on winter harvest.

While rain was a problem for us, it is great to see the break in the drought pattern.

If members want to discuss these projects please call Gordon Kerr



# M o r e S u m m e r P r o j e c t s



The Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association is an organization composed of various types of members. We have a variety of age groups, special interest groups, target shooters, hunters, fishermen/women, bird watchers, conservationists and many others. These individuals come together to enjoy and use the property and facilities provided by membership in the club/organization. We can enjoy nature, assist with conservation efforts, improve the facilities and have fellowship with those of similar interest. At appropriate places on the property we can hike, camp, participate in archery, and use firearms (rifles, handguns, shotguns, black powder guns). Youth under 18 years of age can learn how to fish in the stocked fish pond. We do these activities in a responsible manner with respect to other club members and neighbors.

*In pursuing these activities, we must abide with club rules. Many of these rules deal with standard procedures and conduct related to handling and care of bows and arrows and firearms. When violations of these rules occur it is not only a danger to the individuals involved but to the association itself. Many of you will know that some members of the general public do not share our enthusiasm for our chosen activities. Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association cannot tolerate any behavior that would compromise the safety of our members, neighbors or the general public. In addition to general rules regarding firearms and ammunition (see material supplied by firearm manufacturers and ammunition manufactures), the club has other rules that define where and when we can enjoy our activities. Shooting at appropriate sites and times are important and necessary.*

## Benefits of Membership

*There are many benefits to membership in the association. One of the major benefits is our affiliated membership in the Alberta Fish and Game Association. Part of your dues to the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association are paid to Alberta Fish and Game Association. This provides members with insurance (while using the range), other insurance benefits, the Outdoor Edge Magazine, discounts at various businesses, and a combined voice on matters of common interest to government and other groups.*

## Problems

**We must have proper insurance coverage to utilize the range facilities. When you purchase a membership in the club, your membership fee includes a portion for insurance that is paid to Alberta Fish and Game Association. Your membership class must conform with the classes of insurance coverage.**

**A major problem the Association has is with persons who apply for a family membership and include persons who are not eligible. Consideration is being given to requiring that all Family Range Members and all Family Regular Members mail applications to the Club to eliminate the problems encountered with ineligible dependants.**

**Family Regular Memberships** shall constitute one regular member, a spouse or partner and all dependent children under 18 years of age (cost \$70 per Year) with no access to shooting ranges.

**Family Range Memberships** shall constitute one range member, a spouse or partner and all dependent children under 18 years of age (cost \$130 per Year) with access to shooting ranges.

**Family Range Memberships and Family Regular Memberships DO NOT INCLUDE grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and in-law relations.**

**Dependant** includes a spouse or partner and sons or daughters under 18 years of age.

**Youth Membership** is open to all young people under 18 years of age



# Memberships

Daryl II Murri, Membership Chair

Membership fees for 2010 are as follows:

Range	\$90
Family Rang	\$130
Regular	\$50
Family Regular	\$70
Youth	\$20



Membership Privileges include the following:

- A: Range Membership-Full access to all facilities including shooting ranges.
- B: Family Regular Membership shall constitute one Regular Member, a spouse or partner and all dependant children under 18 years of age. Children must be supervised by adult member when shooting
- C: Regular Membership- No access to Shooting ranges.
- D: Family Range Membership shall constitute one Range member, a spouse or partner and all dependant children under 18 years of age.
- E: Youth Membership is open to all young people under 18 years of age. Youth members must be supervised by an adult when shooting.
- F: Dependants includes a spouse or partner and sons or daughters under 18 years of

Memberships are available at General Meetin gs or you can mail an Application Form to:

Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association  
PO Box 3098, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2T1.

MilArm Co. Ltd. 10769 – 99 Street, Edmonton (780) 424-5281	Sherwood Park Archery Lanes Inc. 429 Sioux Road, Sherwood Park (780) 464-0017
Wholesale Sports - North 12610 St. Albert Trail, Edmonton (780) 477-3737	Sabre Sports & Cycle 52 Brentwood Boulevard, Sherwood Park (780) 464-3100
Wholesale Sports – South Common 2033 – 98 Street NW, Edmonton (780) 461-2001	Alberta Field and Stream 4932 – 51 Avenue, Tofield (780) 662-0077
P & D Enterprises 10552 – 115 Street, Edmonton (780) 420-6419	Reg Perras (780) 662-4430
Alberta Fish & Game Association 6924 – 104 Street, Edmonton (780) 437-2342	Philip Lagrandeur (780) 986-2202

SPFGA Memberships may be purchased directly from:

If you change your address, please:

- send an email to: [membership@spfga.org](mailto:membership@spfga.org)
- or call Daryl II Murri at

# Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association

Affiliated with Alberta Fish and Game Association  
PO Box 3098, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2t1

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$50	Member benefits for one person without range privileges	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> NEW
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Family Regular	\$70	Member benefits include spouse/partner, dependent children under 18 years of age, without range privileges	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Range	\$90	All privileges for one person including range privileges	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> MALE
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Family Range	\$130	Member benefits include spouse/partner, dependent children under 18 years of age with all privileges	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	\$20	Open to any young person under 18 years of age, who is supervised by a Range Member	<div>BIRTH YEAR</div>

Name .....

Mailing Address .....

Town/City.....Province.....Postal Code.....

Phone (.....).....Email.....

To be used only for emailing Club information such as notices of Meetings. NO SPAM advertising will result.

### PAYMENT METHOD

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE	Please make cheques payable to <b><i>Sherwood Park Fish &amp; Game Association</i></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> VISA	Name On Card .....
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	Card No. ....
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	Expiry Date.....Signature .....

Amount Enclosed  
\$ .....

### *NAMES AND INFORMATION ABOUT ALL DEPENDANTS LISTED UNDER FAMILY REGULAR AND FAMILY RANGE MEMBERSHIPS*

**This information is essential for dependant members under Family Memberships to qualify for Club Insurance.**

Name	Birth Year	Relationship



# In Pursuit of the Goose

Bob Chapman

Goose season is almost upon us. All the practice at the range over the summer will soon pay off when the first flock of geese drop their landing gear and begin the last glide into your decoys. "Take em" will ring out, guns will blaze, and the season has begun!



Although I enjoy all types of hunting, waterfowl hunting, specifically goose hunting is definitely my passion. This is one type of hunting where I truly enjoy the preparation as much as the hunt.

There are basically two techniques or styles of goose hunting. Pass shooting is selecting a good hide somewhere between where the geese roost and where they feed. I have found that success with this style of hunting is very dependent on the wind, as the "line" and the height the geese fly is dependent on the wind and can change from the time you spot them and the time you actually hunt them. I have hunted in Saskatchewan with good success using this technique but there are literally thousands of birds and there are very high hills coming off the river where I hunted. Gear can be very simple for this hunt- all that is required is a gun, shells, and some camo clothing.

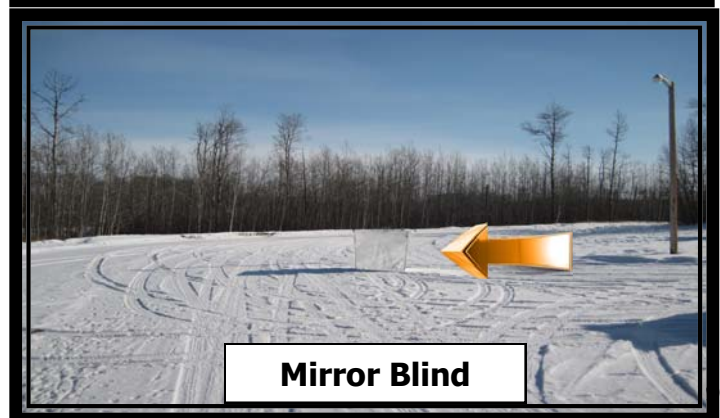
The other style of hunting is over decoys in a field or lake setting. Normally I do not hunt geese over water as I find they move on very quickly if hunted over their roost. I much prefer to hunt over decoys in a field setting, and have found that wind does not affect field hunting to as large a degree. More equipment is required for field shooting, including decoys, blinds, calls and quite a bit more

time for setup as well. There are numerous opinions on how many decoys are required for a shoot, but for fall hunting we usually setup between 6 and 10 dozen. These are a mix of full bodies, shells and silhouettes, with some "movers" in there as well.

There are dozens of styles of decoys on the market, and once again as many opinions, on what styles are the best. In the past I have used many styles but this year plan on trying mostly silhouettes. They are light, portable, realistic and are quick to setup and take down. I also have a couple of dozen "movers" that I will mix in as well.

There are also hundreds of calls out there and I usually use three or four different styles of goose calls - each having a different tone.

Coffin style blinds are probably the most popular blind used today. They are low profile, portable and can be very quickly thatched with whatever foliage local to where you are hunting. That said, I personally find them un-comfortable to shoot from and use one of the many styles of bale blinds on



*('In Pursuit of the Goose' continued from page 9)*

the market. This spring I built a mirror blind and am anxious to try it out. The mirror (Mylar) finish should reflect whatever foliage I am in and will eliminate the need to thatch the blind.

If you are deciding on a new shotgun for water fowling this year, there are lots to choose from. Selecting a shotgun is a personal thing so I will not comment on what shotguns I think are best, as I feel the best gun is the one that fits you the best. Once you have selected your shotgun I will suggest that you pattern your shotgun with a few different loads as some will pattern better than others. I have patterned a few in my 12 gauge Benelli and the Kent Fasteel 3" BB's pattern well, with the Federal Blackcloud 3" BB's being the best in my gun.

There are quite a few accessories to take when blind hunting. I like to take a field bag with me, carrying my extra shells, binoculars, gloves, headlamp, calls, camera, and a thermos of coffee. As I mentioned before I really enjoy the preparation for a goose hunt and spotting is where the hunt begins. Spotting can be an important part of all hunts, but with goose hunting, at least over decoys in a field setting, it is a necessity. Knowing the "X" spot on a specific field will increase your success substantially over just setting up somewhere in the same field. With a large setup and some good calling geese can be pulled into your setup from some distance but setting up on the "X" will increase your odds.

Whatever style of water fowling you enjoy, be sure to get out there this year and take a kid hunting when ever you can. We have four sons whom I took hunting for years, and now that they have grown it is hard to schedule outings together. I have very fond memories of our hunting excursions over the years and would not trade those outings for anything. We are very lucky to live in Alberta with its diverse outdoor

opportunities and sharing it with a youth just adds to the enjoyment!



**Bale Blind**



**Coffin Blinds**





## RANGE STUFF

### Shooting Range Etiquette

The following are reminders for conduct at the shooting ranges to ensure safety for everybody.

- ◆ First person at the range acts as the safety officer
- ◆ When screen or flags are in the up positions the range is "open"
- ◆ Shooting and handling of firearms commences
- ◆ When you are finished shooting or handling of firearms leave your bench and step behind the cease fire line
- ◆ When screen or flags are in the down position the range is closed and shooting stops
- ◆ Leave your firearm on the bench with the action open
- ◆ Step behind the cease fire line
- ◆ Do not touch or handle your firearm until range is again open (screen or flags up)

When shooting at the ranges your membership card must be worn and visible. If your card is not visible, other members or an Association Enforcement Officer will ask to see your card.

Individual membership cards cannot be shared/used by

family members or others. Sharing of cards or access to the property for the purposes of shooting will result in the loss of membership in the Association for the current year.

Members only can shoot at the ranges. Shooting by non-members is not allowed. This is a requirement of insurance that the Association carries for the ranges. If insurance coverage were lost because of non-member use or an injury incident involving non-members the ranges would be shutdown. This is a real possibility. Recently the fish and game range in Lethbridge was temporarily closed because of a stray bullet from outside the range.

Most members respect this rule. There is however a small percentage of members who bring non-members to shoot at the ranges. This is a recurring problem that needs to be solved. In many cases non-members when confronted by our enforcement officer buy a membership onsite. This is good but it is not a complete solution. Warnings, signs at the ranges and notices in the Newsletter have not been effective. THEREFORE, MEMBERS WHO BRING NON-MEMBERS TO SHOOT AT THE RANGES WILL LOSE THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

## New Changes for Members ...

1. Safety at the ranges is something all members want. Last year we had 2 safety issues where persons discharged firearms when the safety screen was in the down position. One event involved a member, who lost his membership. The second event was by persons unknown (assumed to be non-members in trespass). This behavior is unacceptable. Please take some time and read the posted rules at the ranges, and speak to others if you observe unsafe behavior.

Because of these incidents and the increased SPFGA membership the Executive decided that all new members will be required to attend a Range Orientation

session. These sessions will be at the ranges at 900 AM on the last Sunday on each month. Pat Harris who is a certified range safety officer will conduct the orientation sessions (an also First Vice President). Members attending will need to contact Pat by email or telephone to confirm their attendance. New members are defined as first time members of SPFGA or, past members whose membership was not renewed for two years.

2. This is a reminder to members that the option of buying a membership in the fall at a reduced price plus a full membership for the following year ( 2 for 1) is no longer available. This option was discontinued to reduce extra bookkeeping caused by our large membership.

## Range Orientation Sessions

9:00 AM Last Sunday of each month

Contact Pat Harris

to confirm attendance.



# 2010 Calendar of Events



## AUGUST

Trap Shooting at Shotgun Range – Every Sunday (1:00 - 3:00 pm) and Wednesday (6:00 - 8:00 pm) from May 15 to September 30  
August 14, 11:00am to 1:00 pm  
SPFGA 2010 Handgun Event – TBA  
Contact: Gary Chambers

## SEPTEMBER

September 8: Executive Meeting: CoC  
September 9: Hunter's Night: Aquatic and Recreation Centre Boardroom, Rundle Park – 2909 113 Ave, Edmonton. Contact Dave Hollingshead,  
September 11, 11:00am to 1:00 pm  
SPFGA 2010 Handgun Event – TBA  
Contact: Gary Chambers

## OCTOBER

October 13: Executive Meeting, CoC  
October 29: General Meeting OLC

## NOVEMBER

November 09: Executive meeting, CoC

## DECEMBER

NO EXECUTIVE MEETING

December 02: General Meeting 7:30PM – Election Night: OLC



The sportsman lives his life vicariously, for he secretly yearns to have lived before, in a simpler time.  
A time when his love for the land, water, fish and wildlife  
would be more than just part of his life.  
It would be his state of mind.

*Jim Slinsky*