



## SHERWOOD PARK FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2017



I hope that you all have had a chance to spend some time at the range over the past spring and summer. The spring archery and black powder shoots were well received and trap shooting is well underway.

Thanks to everyone that helped out at the work party in June. Between your efforts and work done to improve the roads and parking areas, upgrade the clubhouse and add storage space the range is in good shape overall. We do have an area with downed brush and trees that should be cleaned up and the firewood salvaged. So if you have chain saw experience and could help out for a day this fall please send me an E- mail and we will try to get a work party together.

The club relies heavily on volunteers and please if you think someone deserves to be recognized for their efforts let us know. Send me an E- mail with their name and contributions and why they should be considered for an award of merit for 2017.

The club had just over 2600 range members by May 2017 and 125 non range members. Once family and youth members are included total membership is over 5300. If you add to that the fact that the law enforcement groups are also increasing their time at the range it means that the range can get busy. The law enforcement groups are to use the overflow range and if necessary the 300 m range. They are booked in on our schedule on the web site so you can check as to which days the overflow range is available if you think that you might need to shoot there.

Even with all of that there have been very few safety incidents. There have been several reports of shots hitting the ground which could create ricochets and several cases of unsafe handling of a firearm. These have either been followed up by the executive or handled immediately by the members or the range safety officers. Again if something or someone is making you feel less than completely safe and they won't stop when asked, then report it.

In 2012 we decided to handle the issuing of memberships ourselves in order to better control the numbers. As the club grew the workload associated with renewing all of the memberships quickly exceeded what a volunteer could reasonably be expected to do. As a result we started hiring temporary office help

## ***Presidents Report .....continued***

to handle the work load and paying the membership chair for their time. That arrangement over time has blurred the line between volunteer and employee. That became an issue. As well, with very few people involved, the whole process was at risk if individual health or personal issues intervened.

For 2018 we have made the difficult decision to contract out the whole membership renewal process to an Edmonton management company rather than do it ourselves. If it goes well you will not see any change from last year. You will receive your renewal notice in the mail. Fill it out and return it to the address provided. You will receive your new membership card and your gate access will be granted for 2018. If there are any question or problems with the renewal process there will be a contact number provided.

We expect that it should also reduce our turnaround time for processing memberships and reduce our costs overall.

If at all possible please provide the club with an E- mail address as this is the quickest and most efficient way to communicate with you if the need arises.

**The executive will decide on whether we can accommodate new members for 2018 by this December.**

I would also encourage everyone to attend our General Membership Meetings. We schedule 5 per year. We try to make them informative but they are also necessary for critical club business.

The January, April and May meetings are the last Thursday of the month at the Old Log Cabin, 50 Spruce Street in Sherwood Park, 7:30 pm. The January meeting is to vote on motions that are to be presented at the Alberta Fish and Game conference and if approved passed on to the government as our recommendations for improving fishing and hunting opportunities in Alberta. The April and May meetings usually deal with fishing and conservation topics. The May meeting is also the meeting that the club finances are presented for the past year and approved by the membership.

The fall meetings are the first Thursday of September to discuss hunting regulation changes for the upcoming season and the December is to elect a new club executive. We need 25 members in attendance to make a quorum and at times it has been difficult to properly conduct club business.

I encourage you all to get involved and make it your club. Attend a meeting or two. Learn what the issues are; who is on the executive and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to bring them up.

That said hopefully I will see you at the Hunter's Night, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the Old Log Cabin and I hope that you have a safe and successful hunting season.

Regards,

Doug Burton

## 2017 SPFGA EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT

DOUG BURTON

### PAST PRESIDENT

PAT HARRIS

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

FADY MANSOUR

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

LEE SIMKIN

### TREASURER

ROBERT LOEWEN

### SECRETARY

LEE HORNE

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

DEANNA LOEWEN

### NEWSLETTER

RICHARD ROTHWELL

### CONSERVATION

FRANK LEE

### ARCHERY

AL KEELER

### BIG GAME

CLAYTON LUCIER

### FISH

VERN McINTOSH

### HANDGUN

JERRY PURPUR

### SHOTGUN

KEITH LACEY

### BLACK POWDER

TASSI XENOS

### RIFLE BIG BORE

PETE BEAUVAIS

### POLITICAL ACTION/ENVIRONMENT

ANDY BOYD

### FACILITIES COORDINATOR

RICK BUCKLEY

### SERVICE AWARDS & CASINO

JARETT CROSLEY

### SONG BIRDS

RON DURSTLING

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

GAETAN RICHARD

### TELEPHONE-EMAIL

JESSICA HOFFMAN

### BANQUET/AWARDS NIGHT

TAMARA HUMMEL

### WATERFOWL

JIM ROMANIUK

### WEB SITE COORDINATOR

WALTER KLISSNER

### YOUTH COORDINATORS

SANDRA HOFFMAN

### CO-YOUTH COORDINATOR

TRISH GEORGE

RANGE SUPERVISOR

JIM CLARKE (appointed)

### CATERING

Elaine Xenos (appointed)



## **Hunters .....This is your Night**

**September 7 2017 At the Old Log Cabin**

**50 Spruce Avenue Sherwood Park**

The feature speaker will be Matt Besko, Director of the Wildlife Policy Division. Matt is a very knowledgeable and entertaining Personality who also makes presentations at the AFGA Annual Convention.

This is your opportunity to get up to speed on any changes to the hunting regulations as well as to find out how healthy our game herds are. There will be time allotted for you to ask questions and voice any concerns. Denis Proban with the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division will also be on hand to answer any enquiries concerning local conditions. Hopefully we will be able to give you an update on whether or not we will be able to partake in the Elk Island Park Proposed cull hunt.



## **Range Property Improvements**

We have a large new bird feeder at the Club House thanks to Steve Witiuk, Ron Durstling and Frank Lee. The old feeder was well received by our members, local residents and visiting political figures and did much to quell any thoughts that we do not contribute to conservation. The new feeder will be kept full during the winter months

## **Fish Pond Report**

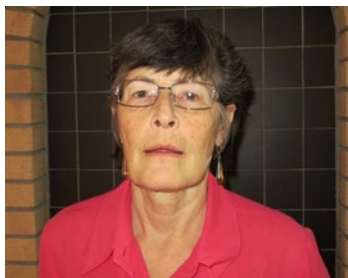


This year, 200 four inch rainbow trout were stocked. Since the stocking, there has been no evidence of mortality. Cost of the fish was \$2.25 each and nothing but four inch fish were available. At the time of ordering there was no information from the supplier of the presence of whirling disease. Later, before the fish were delivered, we were informed by the fish farm

staff that their outside tanks had the disease but not the inside tanks, where our fish were stored.

About 10 days after stocking a letter was received from Fish and Wildlife that our fish farm license was suspended because we purchased from an infected supplier.

Application will have to be made for a license renewal for any further stocking. We ask anyone that is camping or on the property between 6:30 and 8:30 AM to report the presence of blue heron to the Fish Chairman should they see them at the pond. This is the time when they will be feeding on the fish, if they are present. **Vern McIntosh. Fish Chair**



# MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

## Notice to SPFGA Members

### Re: Membership Processing

The Executive approved a motion to have all memberships processed by a management company. The Executive concluded that processing of membership renewals and processing of new member applications will be done more efficiently and much quicker by the management company. For 2018 membership fees, the management company will process all methods of payments for membership fees.

Effective September 1, 2017 membership renewals, new member applications and all membership enquiries will be handled by the management company, ManageWise.

**”As reported by the President** “members will receive a renewal notice in the mail. Fill it out and return it to the address provided. You will receive your new membership card and your gate access will be granted for 2018. If there are any questions or problems with the renewal process there will be a contact number provided.”

Members fees for 2018 remain unchanged from 2017

✓	Indicate Membership for Purchase with check marks (ü) and if you are a new member or renewing your membership. Also Please provide your Birth Year and Gender			✓
	REGULAR	\$55	Member benefits for one person Does not include range privileges	NEW
	FAMILY REGULAR	\$75	Member benefits include spouse/partner, dependent children under 18 years of age. Does not include range privileges.	RENEWAL
	RANGE	\$130	Member benefits for one person, includes all privileges and use of shooting ranges.	MALE
	FAMILY RANGE	\$170	Member benefits include range member, spouse/partner, and their dependent children under 18 years of age. Includes all privileges and use of shooting ranges. Children under 18 years of age must be supervised by a Range Member.	FEMALE
	YOUTH	\$20	Open to any young person under 18 years of age. Children under 18 years of age must be supervised by Range Member	BIRTH YEAR
	ACCESS CARDS	\$10	A one - time charge	
	LOST MEMBER CARDS – Replacement Fee is \$20 per membership and \$50 - for an entire family			

# 2017 SPRING WORK PARTY

You know what they say; sometimes if you don't have bad luck you won't have any luck at all. This is the second year in a row we have gotten rain all day at the cleanup. Still roughly 60 brave souls came out and braved the weather and managed to get much of the required work done:

- Lots of firewood was cut from several downed trees, this filled the campsite and clubhouse wood supplies.
- The pistol range uprights were changed out, this was a big job we do yearly and takes about 20 man hours to complete (please quit shooting them).
- The insides of the shooting sheds were painted as well as many other small jobs that tend to pile up over the year.
- Unfortunately the picnic tables need mending as well as there are several areas that need paint.
- The berms need some rocks removed as a condition required by the CFO (bet you didn't know that rocks in the backstop is frowned upon).

As I write this in the beginning of August I keep thinking we may want to have a second work day to get some of these fair weather projects completed.

I really do have to thank the 60 volunteers that showed up and to Elaine and Tassi Xenos ***et al*** for the amazing lunch and supper they provided. Just like in the previous year, as soon as supper was finished up and all were preparing to go home, the rain stopped and the sun came out.

Lee Simkin





# 2017 SPRING WORK PARTY

Pictures provided by Jerry Purpur



**Working on the ranges**



**ATV Transporta-**



**How to get a Mud Facial?  
Take a ride in a trailer behind an ATV**



**LUNCH BREAK — NICE AND WARM AND LOTS OF GOOD FOOD**

# 2017 BANDING AND COUNTING OF PURPLE MARTENS



Purple Martins are a swallow like bird that winter in South America and migrate thousands of miles to North America in the spring to breed. They arrive in Alberta in late April and early May.

Purple Martins under natural conditions choose mature open woodlands, with lakes, meadows and marshes interspersed among the trees. Old burns often attract them, in such places crevices in hollow trees and woodpecker holes are their nest sites and the field and marshes are their feeding grounds. But in Alberta today most Purple Martins nest in cities and towns, around farmsteads in apartment-type bird houses (Salt 1976<sup>1</sup>).



Our annual crop of young Purple Martins was banded on July 11 this year. Biologist and noted media personality Geoff Holroyd, Glen Hvengaard and Hardy (i.e. Erhard Pletz) headed up a group of 5 certified Banders and 3 student banders and a group of 10 observers, which included a young man from China and a young woman from Mexico. Hardy has banded our birds in the past but decided to take a break this year. Hardy first started banding birds in 1969 and over the years has recorded over 120,000 individual birds for more than 65 different species.

Bands put on individual birds are numbered. This data along with the location and date of banding for each bird are sent to Ottawa to be compiled and then sent to Washington D.C. Analysis of the data in the Registry in Ottawa gives a better understanding of how far the birds go from where they were hatched and banded.

Geoff Holroyd has also been involved in putting GPS tracking devices on Purple Martins. This data makes it possible to identify the time and travel route of their migration. Upon leaving Alberta in late August they fly to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico where they molt and spend 2 months before moving on to Brazil where they spend the winter.

The spring migration of Purple Martins in Alberta occurs in May. Mature birds return about May 1<sup>st</sup> with the sub-adult birds arriving 4-6 weeks later. This difference in arrival time insures that a whole flock does not perish in the event of severe weather in May as often occurs.

Within two weeks of returning the birds pair up, nest and lay 4-6 eggs that are incubated for 15-16 days. When the bird houses are opened to band the young around May 10-15, there is a big difference between nests with unhatched eggs and nests where chicks have hatched and left the nest. Young birds are fed for 4 weeks in the nest until they fledge. Adults continue to feed chicks for another week outside the nest.

Besides being vulnerable to a May cold spell we can lose birds if there are 3 or more days of consecutive rain in the first ten days of June. Birds will not be able to find enough flying insects to sustain themselves and their chicks. Without enough food, the cold and wet takes its toll.



We have counted 861 baby birds in our houses in the eight years we checked the nests. We did not disturb the birds in 2011 due to inclement weather. Of the chicks counted only 1/3 to 1/2 were old enough to be banded and recorded.

Frank Lee.. Conservation Chair

**Editors Note** .....Frank Lee put together a work party in early 2008 to build 4-12 apartment compartments. Walter Domytrak generously allowed them to tie up his shop for the 4 weeks it took to finish them. Frank welded up the bases and poles in his shop and installed 2 houses in June of the year. The last two houses were installed in the summer of 2011. Pictures shown below were provided by Jarett Crosley.



**Bird House being installed**



**Chick being banded**



**2 Chicks in compartment**



**2 Chicks newly hatched with no**

## JUNE 4 HANDGUN SHOOT

There was a good turn out for the June 4<sup>th</sup> hand gun fun shoot with 12 people arriving in the morning. Weather was excellent with light wind. We started with pistol targets and went on to balloons, paper cups and plates, jugs of water, and hanging steel targets. Prizes were given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place as well as top youth shooter. Al Keeler took top spot shooting his gorgeous .22 browning gold medalist. Second place was given to Donald (sorry no last name), and third place went to Jeff Heppner. Alexander Wu shot a respectable 72 to take top honors in the youth category using I believe a .45 caliber semi.

Well done Alexander.



**Safe shooting everyone and have a great year.**  
**Jerry Purpur**



# Sherwood Park Fish & Game Black Powder Shoot

Sept 9 & 10 2017 SHOOT

Saturday morning: Rifle .

Saturday afternoon: Pistol

Sunday morning: Trade Gun & Rifle

Sunday afternoon: Knife & Hawk .

## Registration at Club House

Morning events; Registration 8:30 to 9:30 am, shooting 9 to 12 am, prizes awarded at 1pm

**Afternoon events;** registration 1 to 2 pm, shooting 1 to 4 pm, prizes Awarded at 5 pm.

New for 2017—Proof of liability insurance. Added to the trade gun event, five trap shots.

Bring some bird shoot & wads.

### Shoot Rules

- Non SPF&G members are welcome to this Black Powder Shoot.
- All shooters must have their own liability insurance coverage.
- \$5 entry fee per person, per event. No blanket prize needed.
- All rifles must be muzzle-loaders, with iron sights. This includes inline rifles.
- Trade gun are flint lock smoothbore, with no back sights.
- Pistols can be cap & ball revolvers or muzzle loaders.
- The uses of sabots or maxi type bullets are NOT permitted. They destroy our gongs.
- Use only patched round balls. Please, no greased lube patches, as they can start grass fires.
- Inline rifles with scopes can be used, but can not win 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes. They are eligible for all other prizes.

Some shooters will be asked to help manage an event.

### Liability Insurance

All shooters ( including Juniors ) must have their own liability insurance.

- Starting in 2017, all competitors must be a member of one of the following associations: Alberta Fish & Game Association or affiliated clubs.
- These Associations have liability insurance for their members —- National Firearms Association or affiliated clubs. BC Wildlife Federation or affiliated clubs Membership cards must be presented and will be checked. Someone will be appointed as an "insurance cop".
- Coming to the shoot without a muzzle loading firearm or proof of insurance (membership) will result in the same outcome. You will not be shooting.

### **Fire prevention / 5 second patch lube test**

- A small propane torch ( the type used to solder copper pipe) is needed for this test.
- Lube a patch & hold it at the tip of the flame for 5 seconds. If the patch does not start to smoulder, this patch lube combo can be used on trail walk.
- Please do this test. Check your patch lube before coming to our shoot. We will be testing all patch lubes at the shoot.

### **Other Information**

- Tin long house camping by the club house and in the camp ground.
- A large primitive camp area will be located behind the club house.
- Camp set up as early as Friday morning. All campers can stay until Monday morning.
- Saturday evening potluck supper.
- \$10 shot fee per camp / rig.
- Location Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association—Check their web site for location

**Contact / Information Tassi Xenos**



# Archery Report

This year, we have been able to make a few changes to our archery range. All the target butts have been changed out for the new block type target. You will find arrow removal is much easier and you do not have to scrape material off your arrows.

If you have been on the 3D course, you may have noticed the addition of a couple of new targets. We added a caribou and an alligator for your shooting pleasure. We have 21 shooting lanes on our 3D course and some have two targets to trust your skills. Many of the targets are setup in hunting type scenarios to test your skills and give some practice so you can get that elusive animal.

At our August 3D shoot had the following winners:

Open Male	Steve Whitlock
Bowhunter Release Female	Kathleine Emerson
Bowhunter Release Male	Lee Simkin
Traditional Female	Fiona Vitsin
Traditional Male	Goran Vitsin

If you would like to try your hand at the course, the 3D targets are still out and we plan to leave them out until the long weekend in October or the first snowfall. Archery hunting season is about to start so one needs to go

through their equipment and make sure all is ready for the opening day. One should ensure their broad heads are razor sharp and they hit where you are aiming. Some broad heads do not have the same point of impact as a field point so they should be sighted in. Broadheads are welcome on the target range you just need to bring your own target butt. They are not allowed on the 3D course.

In many hunting situations, the animal you are shooting at is between two trees. Your first thought when going to shoot is "I'm going to hit one of the trees". One must think positively and that they are going to hit the animal. One way to help achieve this is to practice on the 3D course so you gain confidence in your abilities and know you can easily put the arrow between the trees and make a good hit.

The 3D course will also help you in judging distances to your target. If you were not lucky enough to get a range finder last Christmas or for your birthday, the practice gained on the 3D course will really come in handy when that big buck walks in front of you. If you were lucky enough to get a range finder from that special someone suggest ranging the possible shots you may get before the animal actually shows up. You may not get time to range it before you have to take the shot.





Please remember that if you are using a tree stand for your archery hunting, use the safety harness, attach it so there is little slack in the tether and try drawing your bow at each of your shooting lanes to ensure there is no interference. If there is, work out what you have to do to eliminate it.



Goran Vitsin



Steve Whitlock



Kathleine Emer-



Lee Simkin



Fiona Vitsin

Hope your arrows fly straight, enjoy the coming season and be safe.

Al Keeler



# SPFGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
SEPT 4	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 5	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
SEPT 6	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	EPS TACTICAL
SEPT 6	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
SEPT 7	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 8	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 11	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 12	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 13	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	LEDUC RCMP
SEPT 13	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
SEPT 14	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
SEPT 16	ALL DAY	CLUB HOUSE	193 SCOUTS
SEPT 17	ALL DAY	CLUB HOUSE	193 SCOUTS
SEPT 18	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP STRATH DETACHMENT
SEPT 19	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP STRATH DETACHMENT
SEPT 20	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP STRATH DETACHMENT
SEPT 20	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
SEPT 20	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP STRATH DETACHMENT
SEPT 21	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP STRATH DETACHMENT
SEPT 26	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SEPT 27	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
SEPT 28	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP
SEPT 28	ALL DAY	CLUBHOUSE	193 SCOUTS
SEPT 29	ALL DAY	CLUBHOUSE	193 SCOUTS
SEPT 30	ALL DAY	CLUBHOUSE	193 SCOUTS
OCT 1	ALL DAY	CLUBHOUSE	193 SCOUTS
OCT 10	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
OCT 11	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
OCT 11	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
OCT 17	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP
OCT 18	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP

# SPFGA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## (2017) ....CONTINUED



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
OCT 18	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
OCT 19	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP ERT
OCT 21	ALL DAY	CLUBHOUSE	ZONE 5 MEETING
OCT 22	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
OCT 25	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	EPS CARBINE
OCT 25	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
OCT 26	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
OCT 27	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
NOV 1	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	EPC TACTICAL
NOV 1	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
NOV 7	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
NOV 15	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
NOV 22	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT
NOV 23	09:00-04:00	OVERFLOW RANGE	RCMP TACTICAL
NOV 24	All Day	CLUB HOUSE	175 CUBS
NOV 25	All Day	CLUB HOUSE	175 CUBS
NOV 26	All Day	CLUB HOUSE	175 CUBS
NOC 29	4:30—7:00	50 YD RANGE	COW BOY ACTION SHOOT

Return undeliverable CDN addresses to:

Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association PO Box 3098 Sherwood Park AB T8H 2T1