



March, 2003

Vermilion & District Fish & Game Association Newsletter

**Box 3174, Vermilion, AB
T9X 2B1**

**Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the
month in the Conference Room
Vermilion Provincial Building
(south entrance, 7:30 PM)**

Members of the Executive

President: George Gerski..... 853-1979
Vice President: Kevin John.....853-4486
Secretary: Cindy Usenik..... 853-4501
Treasurer: Dave Moore.....853-4402
Membership Chair:
Bob Cholowski.....853-4690
Fundraising Chair:
Claire Schielke..... 853-2699
Chairman: Bernard Yonkman...853-6946

Membership Information

Regular Membership.....\$35.00
Family Membership..... \$45.00
Youth Membership.....\$20.00

Presidents Report

Dear Fellow Member's

Well the first year has come and gone and the spring season is just around the corner. Gophers and the crows are all around us and of course more work at the range.

Our first year was a huge success with membership hitting 85. It was more than I anticipated it to be and that's great. As for the start of this year, membership renewals have been good, 80% of last year with around 20 new members already. Our goal for this year is to surpass 100, so if you know of a fellow sportsman who loves to hunt and shoot let us know and lets get him/her signed up. This year, the range will be locked so you will only be able to access it with your members key. Those members who need renewals can contact any of our executives listed at the beginning of this newsletter.

BIG NEWS: Our gun range is now legal!!! Dave Moore and Claire Schielke met with Mike Mussolum, the Range Safety Advisor with the Canadian Firearms Centre. The range has been approved for the discharging of handguns and all rifles up to 50 calibre. Those members who have handguns can now use our range as their home range. You will have to apply for your Authorization to Transport. Our legal land location is NW22-49-06-W4.

We will be planning work bees for the months of April and May. We will be finishing up the backstops and filling them with sand. We also plan to pour a cement pad and place a shelter over it. On another note there is also work that has to be done

along the north side to allow the handgun shooters room. This will include removal of a bank and some backstops put in place. Any member who knows of the whereabouts of some flax bales please call and let us know. They are needed as backstops along the top of the range and along the south berm.

Just a short note to let everyone know that we donated some money to Danny and Rhonda Farkash in their recent family crisis. We also donated \$0.75 from everyone's membership to help support the Northeast Region Fish and Game camp. This money will help less fortunate kids who can't afford camp to be able to go.

In closing, I hope to see you all out enjoying the range this year. Without everyone's commitment and hard work, we would not be where we are today. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone @ 853-1979 or by email at gerskig@telusplanet.net.

Safe Shooting
GEORGE GERSKI
President

Gun Range News

2003 has started out in excellent form and as George has indicated memberships are selling at a great rate. Memberships as of the end of March stand at 68, a great beginning to our second year of operation and our first as an approved club.

The inspection of the range resulted in its approval for all firearms, non-restricted, restricted and prohibited up to but excluding modern 50 caliber center fire ammunition. A number of suggestions to improve the facilities were presented to C. Schielke and D. Moore during the inspection while no major deficiencies were noted. Minor additions or changes to our overall site plan will result in a professional and well-

designed appearance to the range. The Executive expects that it will be at least two more years before the majority of proposed construction is completed.

Knife Raffle

The draw on the hunting knife was held during the big buck day. Kelly Konieczny was the lucky winner of the raffle which brought the club \$624.00 from over 400 tickets sold. The club greatly appreciates the support shown by Chris Swan in donating his hand-crafted knife for this endeavour.

Ducks Unlimited Canada donated a number of items to the club and tickets on these were sold during the day and raised another \$270.00. The club would like to extend its thanks to the organizing committee of the local Ducks Unlimited group for their generous donations. The support of all who bought tickets and made the raffles such successful fundraisers cannot be over appreciated.

First Annual Deer Hunter Shoot and Coyote Hunts

A few eager competitors turned out on a bitter day to participate in our first rifle competition. These individuals had a good time and in deference to those brave individuals all proceeds were divided among the winners in the various categories. Claire Schielke organized two coyote hunts and despite the lack of coyotes encountered all had a good time. The entry fee was presented to the winner each day and the coyotes were donated to the club as a fundraiser. It is hoped that the club will realize approximately \$400.00 from the two events.

A hearty thanks to Claire for organizing the events and to all who showed.

Shooting Benches

All benches have been spoken for and \$1300.00 has been donated as part of our fund raising and advertising program. We are planning on building two benches for the prone position and these will also be available as advertisement for a \$100.00 donation each. We plan on having the plaques on the benches by early May. Interested individuals should contact C. Schielke regarding this program.

Future Funding

The club has recently applied for registration under the Societies Act. This will allow us to apply for a number of provincial grants. We also applied to the Northeastern Alberta Fish and Game Association for a grant of \$2750.00 to cover part of our outstanding bills to Gourley Construction and Snelgrove & Sons Ltd. for their excellent work preparing the range site.

A further grant request for \$30,000.00 will be applied for once our Society status is granted. This grant is to cover half the estimated \$60,000.00 costs to complete the range as envisioned by the executive. Of this amount an estimated \$27,000.00 had been spent, invoiced for or accounted for by volunteer labour by the end of 2002.

Members of the executive at the March 12th meeting passed a motion to purchase a booth at the Vermilion Fair, July 24, 25 & 26, 2003. There will be no better time or place for club exposure. It will provide an excellent fundraising opportunity in the form of membership sales, a raffle, and hat/apparel sales with our "new logo". We are actively looking for volunteers from the membership to sit the booth for three hour shifts (2 people per shift). Please seriously consider volunteering time so our club can make the most of this opportunity. Contact

Kevin at 853-4486 for information on available time slots or proposed activities.

New Logo

We have developed a new logo for the V&DF&GA. You will be able to see it soon on hats, shirts and sweaters around town. Items will be available for sale as a fundraiser for the club and as a recognizable sign to all. Thanks to Embroidery and Stuff for their assistance in developing this logo and producing the items as they are ordered.

Future Activities

The April 9th meeting will be very important to club members as one of the primary agenda items will be to plan a range construction schedule for April and May. It is vital that we get a good volunteer turnout on these weekends so that the club will be completely functional as soon into the spring as possible. We will be looking for commitment of manpower and equipment for a number of Saturdays and Sundays during late April and all of May. Please come out and give your support.

Future Newsletters

It is the intent of your Executive to provide regular newsletters to keep you informed of club activities and items of interest to the sports person.

In order to keep mailing cost down we would like to email copies of the newsletter to as many members as possible. If anyone would like to get his or her newsletter by email rather than snail mail please send your email address to:

Dave Moore at Raptor@silvercrest.ab.ca

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NEXT
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY APRIL
9TH**