

Brooks & District Fish & Game Association - Update

April 16, 2016 - Zone 1 Meeting

Chairs

Back in the fall we created a new chair position, a Public Relations Chair to manage our website (www.bfga.ca), Facebook group (Brooks & District Fish & Game) and advertising for special events. We had a member from Airdrie step up and take on the role, Cori Forseth, and has done very well in the role!

We are currently struggling with volunteer recruitment for the Hunting Chair (vacant for over a year), Archery Chair (vacant for over a year) and a Vice-President position (vacant since our AGM in January). Lots of interest in our range and having the club put on activities, etc., but very few people willing to step up for these positions. Any suggestions on volunteer recruitment are appreciated.

Finances

The club remains strong financially since interest in the rifle range is steady and we are attached to it. Recent numbers were unavailable prior to producing this document. As of February we had about \$22,000 in our general account and about \$150,000 in our Pheasant Festival account. The general account is our day to day operations fund. The Pheasant Festival account is earmarked for Pheasant habitat purchase and creation. We are still actively seeking land in the County of Newell to purchase.

Membership Price Increases

While we are strong financially we would like to stay ahead of the curve and decided at the AGM in January to increase our membership rates. For 2017 they will be:

- \$60.00 for regular membership (up \$15.00)
- \$80.00 for a family membership (up \$20.00)
- \$15.00 for a youth membership (up \$5.00)

We've been investing a lot of money in the range in recent years and want to maintain these improvements as well as positioning ourselves to be able to make major improvements if needed when our range comes up for re-certification in a couple of years. Our range is solid, but some of what we've heard about re certification of the ranges in Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, Taber, etc. have us concerned.

Membership Numbers

Currently we have about 178 regular memberships, 61 family memberships and 0 youth memberships sold. Puts us ahead of where we usually are this time of year. We generally sit at about 500-550 members at the end of the average year.

Past Events

2015 Gun Show

Our 2015 gun show was a huge success. Our first year in the FlexHall worked well and we were able to get 108 vendor tables in the facility. We sold out all 500 tickets for our gun raffle and had about 1100 people through the doors to check the show out. All told the club netted over \$6500 from the event.

Awards Night

Our annual Awards Night was held on February 6. Attendance appeared to be up over last year as we were back to our normal date and advertised more. Exact figures for attendance and revenue were unavailable at the time this document was produced.

Hunter Education Field Day

The hunter education program was well attended yet again with 31 students. Age varied from 11 – 51 and almost 1/3 of the students were female. The field day, which concludes the course, was popular as always with about 30 students, 15 parents and 20 volunteers. The students were given the opportunity to shoot shotguns, .22 rifles, handguns and bows as well as participate in a orienteering exercise and take in big game gutting and skinning displays

Upcoming Events

Fisheries Open House

We are bringing Emeric Janssens up to talk to the club and the membership regarding the state of the fisheries in the area on April 19. We've been advertising and there is some unrest in the area as a result of all the fisheries changes affecting this area, so we are hoping for good attendance.

Wildlife Open House

We plan to bring Mike Grube up to talk to the club and the membership regarding the state of the wildlife management in the area in May or June. We will advertising, it has been many years since we've had a wildlife bio in to speak and there is some unrest in the area as a result of stuff like the Suffield elk hunt and low deer populations affecting this area, so we are hoping for good attendance.

2016 Gun Show

Our 2016 gun show is planned for October 29 and 30 at the FlexHall in Brooks. We expect it to be another success even with the downturn in the economy. We are selling tickets already for the rifle raffle.