



BULKLEY VALLEY ROD & GUN CLUB

PO Box 2976 Smithers, British Columbia V0J 2N0
www.bvrodandgun.ca

WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

DUES ARE DUE annually JAN. 1

Individual Membership = \$50 Family = \$75

Membership includes: Membership and privileges to BCWF along with
Subscription to **OUTDOOR EDGE** (*absolutely the best outdoor
Magazine in all of Canada, let alone western Canada.*)

BOTH **NEW** AND **RENEWAL** members can download off the website. [WWW.bcrodandgun.ca](http://www.bcrodandgun.ca)
<<http://www.bcrodandgun.ca/>> .

COMING EVENTS: Jan. 30, 2010 Smithers Olympic Torch...Can some of you members turn out wearing the BV ROD GUN Jackets and/or hats same as our LOGO. Smithers will be showcased by National and perhaps International Media. Our grassroots members have all these hats and sometimes jackets. Perhaps the chance will arise that a media interviewer will ask you about Smithers and you can honestly talk about 1. fishing/hunting 2. long gun registry, hope it goes away real soon 3. perhaps mention the moose and her two calves seen recently roaming the Streets of Smithers.

Your renewal/new application form can be dropped mailed to Box 2976, Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0 or call one of our executive and they will arrange for pickup. Cheques are preferred. Your dues must be PAID by the Annual General Meeting, usually held the first week in April. The exact date of AGM is to be decided at the next meeting as that is the week before Easter and lots of people will/might be away. Registered gun owners, particularly RESTRICTED weapon owners, must keep their membership current as the powers that be are becoming very strict about this. Bill 401 abolishing long gun registry has yet to have final reading in our parodied parliament and still applies. Restricted weapon users in particular and you members know who you are, are required to have a valid and current club membership permit in order to renew your restricted and/or prohibited weapons renewal expires every 5 years, and you must have been and have an active current membership in an accredited Range Club, not necessarily the BVR&CG, perhaps Houston or another one but....The government has tightened things up, you need the legal and street address of the Club you belong to, along with the club's federal business license, permit to operate a gun range certificate number and we just found out, your president. Dan is about to have a birthday and his five year permit expires on that date...Feb. 12, he started the process in mid November and although he received his permit to own a restricted weapon about 5 weeks after applying, we realized he was missing his carrying permit, so on enquiry to a Government Call Centre in Halifax he finally got his answer on where his carrying permit, new one got to....It is held and not released until the week of his Birthday. Must have been problems elsewhere in Canada with duplicates. Already it's pretty much the end of January. The newsletter, winter, well my goal was to have something out very early, like Jan. 1st to 2nd. The kids, (our grown kids and their two children) left in early January back to big Edmonton. I was about to "get to it" and alas I couldn't cause I had found out on Dec. 31 am that my very good friend Marina had passed away suddenly in Vancouver in route to a New Years Cruise in Hawaii. I hope you can forgive the delay, and now I must GET TO., this newsletter.

There have been a number of queries about the BCWF message to members (BCWF ALERT #181) regarding the eventual black bear hunt closure in the Queen Charlottes.

Aside from the other parts of the deal that the provincial government is making with the Haida regarding timber rights, etc., the local issue of black bear hunting in the Queen Charlottes is as follows.

1. The Haida want to shut down the commercial guiding operation that is owned by Outfitter Kevin Olmstead. They want all trophy hunting of bears stopped in their territory and want to see Olmstead shut down. They would be happy if the provincial government would just cancel his licence and allocation and force him out.

2. The government can't do this without generating a potential major lawsuit from Olmstead for violating his licence agreements and his right to earn his living. Olmstead has a major operation in the area, complete with a large modern lodge and has valued it at over \$3 million.

3. Therefore the only way for the Haida to get rid of the commercial operation is to buy Olmstead out, whereupon they hold the outfitting licence. Presumably, they would then shut the commercial bear hunting operation down.

They are currently trying to raise the money to do just this.

The issue goes beyond the commercial hunting. The Haida apparently want to stop residents from hunting black bear in their area



BULKLEY VALLEY ROD & GUN CLUB

PO Box 2976 Smithers, British Columbia V0J 2N0
www.bvrodandgun.ca

as well and they want the government to make that happen. They don't feel residents use the meat and are not open to residents coming over from the mainland as they feel they are also trophy hunters. However the government can't arbitrarily do that until the outfitter is gone because they can't kill the resident's opportunity while the outfitter is still in business. But once the outfitter is gone they can simply change the numbers for residents and close out the resident hunters as well.

This is apparently the deal that they have made with the Haida. Once the outfitter is gone they will cut the resident's allocation to 4 black bears, which will enable them to say that they haven't stopped the bear hunt in its entirety, but in effect they have reduced it to next to nothing. All this with no conservation concern and in contradiction to the ministry's Wildlife management principles and good science.

The Queen Charlottes may seem a long way away for many of us. But if the government completes this giveaway to the Haida, where does it stop? When will the next First Nations group decide that they want to close down moose hunting or sheep hunting or you name the species.

In fact, it has been expressed that at this point, First Nation's intent is to close down all bear hunting along the west coast and eventually right across the province. With the complicity of the provincial government they could well succeed where the environmental groups and their 1996 referendum to stop bear hunting failed.

The black bear issue is only the tip of the iceberg. What First Nations spokespersons have been using as a talking point is that they really want to take over complete management of the wildlife resource. With what we are seeing in the current government negotiations with the Haida, this is not an agenda that we can ignore.

This is the time to step up to the plate. The Premier's office is willing to sell out our rights in order to maintain political peace coming up to the 2010 Olympics. If we sit on our hands now, we will see resident hunting, at best, severely curtailed in the foreseeable future. At worst, we will see the end of our hunting rights.

Every hunter and angler in British Columbia, whether a member of the BC Wildlife Federation or not, needs to do, at the minimum, two things:

1. Contact your MLA, regardless of party affiliations. Phone, write or at a bare minimum, at least e-mail. Tell your MLA that selling out our rights in the name of the First Nations New Relationship is simply not acceptable.
2. Contact the Premier's office and make the same point. This is even more important than contacting your individual MLA.

Remember, this initiative is coming out of the Premier's office. It is not coming from the Ministry of Environment or any other Ministry, although obviously the caucus is supporting the agenda of the Premier's office.

Contact information for all MLA's can be found at: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/> <<http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/>>

Send this on to all of the hunters and fishermen on your list.

NOTE LOCALLY: Get your BV R& GUN CLUB active. Any issues call Dan Green at 250 847-2549 or email him via the website.

The future of hunting in B.C. is in your hands.

BANQUET 2010 Planning meeting Feb. 4th 7:00 club, committee



BULKLEY VALLEY ROD & GUN CLUB

PO Box 2976 Smithers, British Columbia V0J 2N0
www.bvrodandgun.ca

heads and interested members please attend. Our annual FUNDRAISER this year is Feb. 20th. Funds raised at this night stay in our community to help our community **FISH BETTER, HUNT BETTER, CONSERVE BETTER**
CONSERVE TO ENJOY is our club motto!

Past years we have won many provincial awards. B.C. Wildlife Federation. Congrats to our previous year's trophy winners:

Bert Palmer Award:

2002-Calvin Sundborg- Mountain Goat

Roderick Haig Brown- 1993 and 1996- BVRG

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

1997- Mike O'Neill -moose

2000- Elton Hunter- Mountain Caribou

BCWF Junior Big Game

2001- Justin Hofsink- caribou

2002- Calvin Sundborg- Rocky Mountain Goat

BCWF Junior Fishing

2001- Jaclyn O'Neill- Chinook

2002- Travis O'Neill- Chinook

This year we will be featuring a photo contest. Check website for more details. Banquet attendees will choose the WINNER, **ALONG WITH OTHER FUN.**

And to end this newsletter here is a picture of a few people Ice Fishing on Irrigation Lake. The fishing derby was organized by Calvin Glaim in Houston, planned to be an annual event. Could we / someone do the same down at Lake Kathlyn? The little lakes this winter in this area have perfect ice fishing conditions, while the Bigger Lakes, well at least Francois Lake for sure, the ice is toooooo funky to venture out on.

Lots more issue, check the BV Rod and Gun Board at Outdoor Essentials for letters, etc. –soon to be posted to our site.